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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of confidence that the Legislature will be able to pass a new budget for FY 2011?

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INSIDE



New Leak

BP's broken well was leaking oil and gas again for the first time since the company capped it.

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No Niqab

Syria has forbidden the country's students and teachers from wearing the niqab.

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Action Star

In Salt, much of the action Angelina Jolie performed herself, leaving her collaborators in awe.

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CUC in hiring frenzy to resolve EPA stipulated orders. **PAGE 3**
Spider-infested ship turned back from landing on Guam. **PAGE 9**

No money, no Nov. 2 election

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The absence of funding could result in no elections this November, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero.

The commission has just three months to prepare for the election for the Commonwealth's representative to the U.S. Congress, yet no money has been identified to fund this exercise.

The election is slated for Nov. 2.

Saipan Tribune learned that the commission's top official met with Lt. Gov.

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New Guam-Manila flight

Continental Micronesia will enhance its current schedule of flights between Guam and Manila by adding a Wednesday morning flight starting Oct. 6.

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Late Marine's whole family will be here for Rota funeral

» **US Department of Defense confirms Santos' death**
» **Santos' recruiter: Justice will be served**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

When the late U.S. Marine Corporal Dave Michael Santos is laid to rest on Rota next week, his whole family will be there.

His biological mother, Charito Maliksi-Runge, will be flying from Newark, Delaware to Rota later this week ahead of the arrival of the remains of her beloved son.

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U.S. Marine Corporal Dave Michael Santos poses with his mother, Charito Maliksi-Runge, at her wedding in this file photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



'Tinian has to live with \$2.3M in 2011'

» **Drastic drop from \$4.9M in 2006 may mean further work hour cuts**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

With only approximately \$2.3 million in projected revenue from casino

operations in Fiscal Year 2011, Tinian agencies may have to further cut their spending through work hour and salary cuts, among other things.

If the estimated \$2.3 million budget for FY 2011 is passed and signed into law, this will be the first time that Tinian will have its local budget since FY

See TINIAN on Page 4

« GHOST TOWN

Despite the sign that says "Carnival rides extended until August 31, 2010," these 2010 Liberation Day amusement rides at the Garapan Fishing Base have remained idle since July 5. The temporary permit that the Department of Public Lands gave the Saipan Mayor's Office for the use of the Fishing Base grounds expires this Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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Local

Hardware bills govt \$18,000 for 2008 LibDay expenses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guangdong Hardware has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to approve a government payment of over \$18,000 for construction materials used in the 2008 Liberation Day festivities.

David Gan Jianxiong, representative from Guangdong Hardware, wrote to Fitial on July 13, asking for the full payment of \$18,824.04 for the cost of materials used for the construction of booths for the Liberation Day festivities two years ago.

In a phone interview yester-

day, Jianxiong said Guangdong Hardware has yet to receive a response from the governor's office as of yesterday afternoon.

"Our company is currently in dire need of financial assistance and the only sustainable resources we can obtain is to have a strong directive in collecting our accounts receivable and this is the reason why we are appealing to your good office for the full payment of \$18,824.04 outstanding account balance," Jianxiong told Fitial in a letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday from Capital Hill.

The governor's office

has yet to respond to media questions about Guangdong Hardware's request for government payment.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), when asked for comment, said the expenditure authority for Liberation Day activities should be held responsible for incurring expenses that go beyond appropriated amount.

Tebuteb is chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which annually appropriates portions of Liberation Day activities to the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Guangdong Hardware's request for payment comes at a

time when the Saipan Mayor's Office has yet to submit its financial report on the 2010 Lib-

eration Day festivities.

On July 8, then acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a bill re-ap-

propriating \$25,000 for expenses related to the 2010 Liberation Day festivities.

DPS, DCCA desk audit result in Sept.; Fitial back on island

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The results of a desk audit of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are expected by September.

Press secretary Angel De-

mapan said the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc., which bagged the \$300,000 contract for the desk audit, is expected to be back in the CNMI in August and present a draft report.

He said MAI representatives were in the CNMI in May and June to gather information. While here, the company worked with the Office of Personnel Management, as well as DPS and DCCA.

A desk audit reviews the positions, duties and responsibilities at DPS and DCCA.

A job audit may reveal both inefficiencies and under-utilized resources in the government. It may also identify problems such as excessive salaries, the filling of redundant or obsolete positions, and general staffing inefficiencies in government.

Demapan said MAI is expected to present its findings and recommendations to the government next month.

The Fitial administration said a lack of funding snagged the hiring of an independent team of management analysts to conduct a long-overdue desk audit, which is expected to result in an efficient government.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in his first term in office, promised to make the government more ef-

ficient, but it's only during his second term that his administration was able to hire an independent firm to conduct a desk audit for government efficiency.

Because of funding limitation, the desk audit only initially covers DPS and DCCA, but more agencies will be covered when more funding becomes available. The money used to pay for the contractor came from a U.S. Department of the Interior technical assistance grant.

The last time that a government-wide desk audit was made was in the early '90s. This resulted in the enactment of Public Law 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991, implementing across-the-board salary adjustments for government workers.

In other news, Fitial is now back on island. Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Fitial arrived early Monday morning, after spending two weeks in the U.S. mainland. Fitial attended the 102nd annual meeting of the National Governors Association in Boston, Massachusetts from July 9 to 11, among other things.

Inos said Fitial held his Cabinet meeting on Monday, wherein the austerity measure was still among the major topics of discussion.

Chief justice proposes user-friendly Rules of Procedure for Administrative Appeals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan has submitted to the Legislature a proposed NMI Rules of Procedure for Administrative Appeals.

Demapan forwarded a copy of the proposed rules to Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio on July 1. The Legislature received the documents on July 6.

In his letter to Manglona and Tenorio, Demapan said they have spent countless hours surveying the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, as well as appellate rules from multiple other U.S. jurisdictions.

"The result is this body of regulations that we believe will provide a user-friendly procedural framework for litigants for years to come," the chief justice said.

He said CNMI Supreme Court justices and Superior Court associate judge David Wise-

man found it necessary several months ago to create a body of Administrative Appeal Rules to supplement the laws found in the Commonwealth Code.

Wiseman is currently handling administrative appeal cases.

Demapan said there is at present no governing body of rules that provide clear, consistent guidance to the parties and the court.

"For example, there are no comprehensible procedural rules in the statute which provides a timeline for events beyond the mere filing of the petition, nor does the present governing body of rules outline which motions, if any, are appropriate in an administrative appeal," the chief justice said.

Demapan invited lawmakers to raise questions and issue comments regarding the proposed procedure.

Under the law, unless disapproved by a majority of either House, the proposed rules shall become effective 60 days from its submission to the Legislature.

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CUC in hiring frenzy to resolve EPA stipulated orders

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is looking to fill 10 key positions in an effort to resolve stipulated orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The utility has openings for a grant officer, a grant specialist, seven engineers, and an internal auditor. The salary package for the new positions range from \$30,000 to \$90,000 per annum and the length of the contract is for two years.

Except for the internal auditor position, which will work under the chief financial officer, all advertised positions will work for CUC's water and wastewater divisions.

Besides these 10 positions, the utility is also seeking candidates for executive director, deputy director for drinking water and wastewater, manager of drinking and waste water, manager for wastewater, as well as various levels of certified water and wastewater operators, said CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

Malae said the utility is also



Malae

looking at bringing in local engineers to work for CUC.

"We are trying to attract local engineers who may be working overseas for non-SO positions. We need a lot of skilled positions filled and have to bite the bullet with the [added] expense," he said.

CUC is also tapping students under the Workforce Investment Agency for some skilled jobs.

"Under WIA and the local trade school, we are hiring tradespersons. Some can be developed to become technicians," Malae said.

He admitted that CUC made a big mistake when it lowered the standards for some positions in the water and wastewater divisions.

"Last year we made a big mistake in water and wastewater by just lowering standards. Workers must be at least high school graduates and the trade school students must have good attitudes. From the core, we will develop apprentices," said Malae.

The stipulated orders that set the requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet was signed in March 2009. These orders represent the agreement between

the CNMI and EPA, based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Stipulated Order 1 requires CUC to create a new management and financial structure and is related to CUC's inadequacy to provide potable drinking water and wastewater services.

Stipulated Order 2 involves the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

CUC is also working with two trade associations—American Water Works Association and American Public Power Association—to look for qualified workers.

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Thespians seek public support

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands is looking for individuals and organizations that can help support their student members in pursuing their endeavors in performing arts and technical theater.

Board member Jane Mack cited ways in which supporters can help these young thespians when she addressed members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during their regular meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

The TWPI is a chapter of the International Thespian Society and is organized into individual troupes in various schools in the CNMI. It aims "to embrace the concept of theatre as an instrument of lifelong learning."

It is an honor society for students in grades 6 through 12 who have demonstrated talents in the dramatic arts.

According to Mack, the public can show support for their productions by obtaining advertisements in their playbills, donating food or drinks for their rehearsals, buying seats at their plays, or attending their actual plays.

She said the public can also express their support through their competitions and they welcome volunteer judges, particularly those who have backgrounds in theater.

Mack added that they also appreciate donations like wa-

ter, gift certificates, or prizes for these competitions.

Aid can also come in the form of sponsorship for student competitors that are part of the festival team participating in the annual International Thespian Festival.

Fifteen members of the TWPI took part in the 2010 Thespian Festival held from June 21 to 26 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where they were able to interact with fellow thespians from across the United States and experience intense theatre training and workshops. The students were also able to go to college auditions.

Mack said assistance for these student thespians can also be through college scholarships in support of their scholastic futures.

According to Mack, the community can look forward to the students' next stage performance, *Zombie Prom* by John Dempsey.

The production is originally scheduled to coincide on Halloween but would be subject to availability of resources, she said.

For information and contributions, contact TWPI chapter director Harold Easton at 322-1657 or e-mail him at eastonhh@hotmail.com.

You can also e-mail art and technical theatre coach Wesley Foster at seewes@gmail.com or Mack at janemack@itecnmi.com.

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NMHC accepts 5 project proposals for community development grant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. received five project proposals that want to avail of the community development block grant for program year 2010.

Administered by the housing corporation, the CDBG program was initiated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities for families with low to moderate income.

"The goal [of the CDBG] is to improve facilities that serve the public," said Jeannie Mafnas, planner/grant writer at NMHC.

Mafnas identified the five project proposals during yesterday's board meeting at the NMHC conference room.

These are the construction of the Tinian Fire Department substation, which is requesting for \$500,000; purchase of fire protection and life saving equipment for \$50,000; Susupe sports complex softball field fencing for \$40,000; rehabilitation of the Dandan Children's Park for \$50,000; and the Sinapalo Children's Park for \$375,000.

According to Mafnas, the grant allocation for CDBG for program year 2010 is \$880,151. However, NMHC requires 20-percent of the amount to cover planning and administrative costs, which is equal to \$176,030.20.

Available CDBG amount for project allocation is \$704, 120. The total amount of the five project proposals is \$1,015,000.

Due to the limited funding amount, Mafnas said NMHC's board of directors will meet again on August 4 to decide

which projects qualify for the grant and the amount the projects will receive.

Tinian fire station

During the meeting, Department of Public Safety's Fire Division Chief Tom Manglona expressed his support for the project requesting for the biggest amount of funding.

Up to this day, the Tinian fire station shares facilities with the local police department.

"Out of the three municipalities, Tinian is the only area that does not have a standalone fire station," he said.

According to Manglona, this arrangement is a big challenge for the fire department in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Manglona said the construction of a new fire station is important since the current facility for the fire personnel on

Tinian is no longer able to accommodate their specialized equipment and vehicles such as the fire trucks.

Having their own fire station will "ensure they have proper quarters, proper facilities to safeguard their emergency vehicles, their equipment, and provide for whatever needs they need to do to function to provide for 24-hour emergen-

cy services," said Manglona.

Manglona also submitted the same construction plan that was utilized in developing the Saipan fire station so as to standardize the fire stations for Saipan and Tinian.

Consistent fire station facilities can aid the fire personnel in cases when staff from one island have to assist in certain missions on another island "so they are

aware of the facilities."

"Affording them that facility is obviously a key component for them to fulfill their mission to serve the community in that island," said Manglona.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian), who also attended the meeting, said they are working closely with the Department of Public Lands to designate a land for the proposed fire station.

NO MONEY

From Page 1

Eloy Inos on Monday and Guerrero said that Inos promised to seek the Legislature's help in finding the money for the elections.

The commission estimates the entire election to cost \$128,000. This will cover logistics and operational expenditures, including public education for two legislative

initiatives that have so far been transmitted to the commission. The commission estimates spending \$40,000 on public education for each initiative.

"I am disappointed about the situation...but at the same time I understand the financial status of the government. I know that they have this serious desire to reprogram money...but the problem is, there's no money to reprogram at all. Because of this issue, my worst fear is...we may not conduct the election this year," Guerrero said.

There are two ways the commission could get funding for the polls—via reprogramming

from the Executive Branch or an appropriation from the Legislature.

Since January this year, Guerrero has been banging on the doors of both the Executive Branch and the Legislature to provide the supplemental funding needed. But to date, no single penny or assurance has been received from both the Fitial administration and the Legislature that the funding will be made available.

Failure to hold the election is a violation of the Constitution, according to Guerrero.

"But what will I do? We have zero budget for this and without money, we cannot do it," he said.

Clock is ticking

The commission opened the nomination and petition for both election candidates and initiatives on July 5. It will run until Aug. 4 and certification will be done thereafter.

On Aug. 19, the commission will open the request for absentee ballots from off-island voters.

"The longer the wait for the funds...the more impact to

our off-island voters. We're risking the absentee ballots and depriving our voters from exercising their right," said Guerrero.

From just over 16,000 voters in the 2009 general elections, the commission expects a significant jump in the number due to new registrations and is eyeing more than 18,000 voters in the November polls.

In addition, the number of initiatives on the ballot is expected to rise due to initiatives that remain pending in both the House and Senate.

As of yesterday, only two initiatives have so far been transmitted to the commission. These include House Legislative Initiative 16-18, which authorizes the Department of Public Lands to reserve up to 20 percent of its operational expense for land compensation payments, and House Legislative Initiative 16-13 which prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund have been satisfied or the system is fully funded.

LATE

From Page 1

"Dave's whole family is mourning. My Dave's life was good. ...Dave Michael was an honorable man, son, father, husband and friend. He's a very generous man. Even if he had one dime left, he would give it to friends who need it more. That's how he was... He cannot hurt a fly," his mother told *Saipan Tribune* in a long-distance phone interview yesterday afternoon.

Santos was allegedly stabbed and killed by a fellow Marine around 2am Friday in Marjeh, Helmand Province in Afghanistan, where he was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed Santos death, adding that "this incident is under investigation."

"The Department of Defense announced today [July 19] the death of a Marine who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Cpl. Dave M. Santos, 21, of Rota, Marianas Islands of the Pacific, died July 16 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan," the department statement said.

'Last time we saw him'

Days before his redeployment to Afghanistan, Santos visited his mother in Newark, Delaware.

"I'm glad Dave spent the last few days of his life with us, that we saw him before his redeployment. ...Dave Michael's brothers and sisters here miss him. ...We love Dave Michael so much," she added.

"But as they say, God needs soldiers in Heaven. I'm so grateful God trusted me to raise Dave Michael and to have a great son like him. I know he's in Heaven now and I have an

angel up there," she said.

Maliksi-Runge, who is from Bacoar, Cavite in the Philippines, now lives in Delaware. She gave birth to Santos on Rota on May 17, 1989.

She brought her son while he was still a baby to the Philippines where he grew up.

Maliksi-Runge's sister, Mayette Maliksi, said she helped raise Santos in the Philippines until he was 9 years old, when he went back to Rota to be with his father and studied high school there. Santos would visit his family wherever they were—whether on Rota or in the U.S. mainland.

"It's devastating for my sister to know what happened to her son. It's devastating for the whole family. But who are we to question God? We just want Dave Michael to be at peace. He was a loving child," said his aunt, who is a special education teacher at Cha-Cha Ocean View Junior High School on Saipan.

When Maliksi-Runge flies to Rota later this week, she will be bringing with her Dave Michael Santos' two stepbrothers and stepsisters aged 1 to 16 years old.

On Rota, they will be joined by Santos' biological father, David M. Santos, his adoptive mother Bella Maratita, two stepsisters and a stepbrother aged 10 to 19.

His father described him as a "wonderful son" and "loved by many."

The father said preliminary information relayed to them was that Dave Michael Santos was allegedly stabbed by a fellow Marine on the left side of his neck. He was pronounced dead some two hours later. He last visited Rota in April 2009, and that's the last time his biological father saw him alive.

'Justice will be served'

U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Eric Arriaga told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, as Santos' recruiter, it saddens him "to

know that such an incident occurred amongst our own."

"Rest assured that the individual responsible will be dealt with and justice will be served. I hope that this incident can be viewed as a tragedy and not as frequent occurrence in the military. I will always have a special place in my heart for the CNMI," said Arriaga in an e-mail.

In a separate phone interview, Arriaga said he was on Rota in 2007 and Santos was one of those recruited to the Marine Corps. Arriaga is currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Santos' family, friends and relatives are not alone in their quest for the truth and justice. Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the CNMI government also wants the U.S. military to conduct a full investigation into Santos' death.

The Santos family and the CNMI community are still in disbelief that Santos will be murdered by a fellow Marine. They hope that the truth will come out soon and that justice will prevail.

The late Marine Cpl. Dave Michael Santos also left behind a wife, Lotty Ann Atalig Santos of Rota, and their 3-year-old son, Anthony David A. Santos, both now living in the U.S. mainland. They are also expected to return to Rota for Santos' funeral.

Right after graduating from Rota High School in 2007, Dave Michael underwent a U.S. Marine Corps basic training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and an Advanced Individual Training at Camp Pendleton, California, his father said. He said his first deployment to Afghanistan was in 2008 to 2009. He got redeployed to Afghanistan only about a month ago, the father added.

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) said her nephew is "not the type who would provoke anyone to a fight," and that he's "very respectful."

TINIAN

From Page 1

2006 when revenue from casino operation stood at \$4.9 million.

Since then, Tinian has been under continuing budget resolution.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that, as chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation this year, one of his main goals is to pass an operating budget every year.

"There's some \$2.5 to \$2.6 million in estimated drop from the last time Tinian had a budget. It's unrealistic to still live within the \$4.9 million budget when revenue has dropped this much," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council called for a meeting on Friday with Tinian agencies receiving appropriation from casino revenue operation.

"We are going to take everything in consideration. It's premature for me to say what cost cutting measures will be made until after the meeting on Friday," he said.

Passing a new budget came into fore due to concerns that

revenue from casino operations may only be enough to pay the full reinstatement of the \$75,000 in annual salary of each commissioner of the Tinian Casino Gaming Commission, as well as commission employees.

Ignacio K. Quichocho, vice chair of the casino commission, separately said yesterday that the commission submitted its projected revenue report for FY 2011 and is also still looking into the Tinian mayor's request not to reinstate the full annual salary of commissioners at this time.

"We are still working on it. I'd rather not comment more on that until after our meeting this week. Let's just wait for the result of that meeting. We already have a budget submission," he said.

Quichocho confirmed that commissioners are allowed to have an annual salary of up to \$75,000.

The commissioners' salaries are sourced from revenues collected from the casino on island.

Since 1998, Tinian Dynasty Casino & Hotel has been the sole casino operator on Tinian.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz requested last week the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to continue work hour and salary cuts due to insufficient Tinian local govern-

ment funds to meet payroll and basic operating expenses.

Dela Cruz, in a letter to Tinian lawmakers and municipal council members, said Tinian revenues will only be enough to pay the commissioners and commission employees if their work hours are reinstated to 80 per pay period, from 64.

Since May, commissioners and commission employees have been having a 20 percent work hour cut per pay period, at the request of the mayor.

Commission chair Francisco M. Borja and four other commissioners informed the mayor last week of their decision to reinstate 80 work hours per pay period for all commission employees and commissioners effective "pay period 16 and all succeeding pay periods."

Pay period 16 covers July 4 to July 17.

Hofschneider also confirmed yesterday that the Tinian municipal government inherited from its predecessor some outstanding obligations, including some \$1.6 million in withheld retirement fund contribution since 2007 and over \$200,000 owed to Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for expenses related to the 60th anniversary commemoration of the Battles of Tinian during World War II.

Triple J Saipan gets NMHC board nod for tax credit application

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

One hurdle down for Triple J Saipan Inc. after their application to avail of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program to help finance their plan to construct an apartment building project on private land in Chalan Kanoa was approved yesterday by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation board of directors.

"The board unanimously approved the application at 2:30pm," Triple J Enterprises corporate auditor Michael S. Sablan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview yesterday.

During the board's regular meeting yesterday morning, Sablan urged the board members to "act favorably and judiciously" on their application.

Sablan said Triple J Saipan Inc. intends to develop a 60-unit apartment building along the beach behind the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel, which will be called Sandy Beach Homes.

Each apartment unit will measure between 1,300 to 1,400 square feet and will consist of three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

"The concept behind this project is to provide residents on Saipan [an] opportunity to live in affordable housing in proximity to schools and all amenities," said Sablan.

Sablan also said the initial plan was to have only one apartment building that will house all 60 units. But in order to make it more aesthetic, they decided to construct two buildings with a viewing space between the buildings.

According to Sablan, they heard about the LIHTC program through the Strategic Economic Development Council in March this year.

In June, Triple J Saipan applied for the program, which is administered by NMHC.

Created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986, LIHTC is an important resource for building affordable housing in the United States and its territories by issuing tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing.

Sablan said Guam just recently started participating in the LIHTC program, having completed three rounds of tax credit financing for low-income housing there.

This will be the first time that a corporation on Saipan will avail of LIHTC, he added.

Sablan described LIHTC as "a very complicated and complex program that involves a lot of tax issues," adding that they are working closely with Georgia-based experts "who were instrumental in getting the Guam program going."

He said the approval of the LIHTC application "is a critical step to securing funding for the project."

However, Sablan emphasized that the approval of the application is only one aspect of the project's financial component.

He said the next step would be "to get the assistance of syndica-

tors to help sell these tax credits in the U.S. market" to ensure that the project proceeds as planned.

"We're now focusing on other components [of the project] to make the project a reality," he said.

Sablan acknowledged the overwhelming support of the public for the project, as evidenced by the approval of the LIHTC application and in the public hearing


conducted by the Saipan Zoning Board last July 12.

The public hearing sought for public comments regarding the conditional use application for the Sandy Beach Homes project.

Triple J Saipan Inc. is applying for a conditional use permit since the height of the proposed apartment building is measured 74 feet, exceeding the standard height of 48 feet.

Another public hearing is scheduled on Thursday, July 23, to be conducted by the Coastal Resources Management.

Sablan said they are working closely with government agencies such as CRM, Saipan Zoning Board, Historic Preservation Office, Division of Environmental Quality, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to address concerns relating to the project.



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950

Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2010-X-062 for the proposed construction of sixty(60) 2-3 bedroom apartment units within six floors, parking area on the ground floor, roof mounted generator, roof water catchment system and tanks and solar water heating panels on 4,254 square meters of land located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center, in Susupe, Saipan.**

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this proposed project. The project file is open for review 7:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M. Monday—Friday at CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Saipan Office located at Spring Plaza in Chalan Laulau, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 if you require further information regarding this notice of public hearing.

Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz
Director
Coastal Resources Management

Regents urge interim president's good judgment on off-island trips

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College has asked interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera to exercise good judgment when deciding off-island travels, especially now that NMC is on show-cause status.

During Friday's regular meeting, board chair Janet King said the president's physical presence is required at this critical time to address the recommendations made by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

She pointed out the need to talk to the president face-to-face in matters concerning accreditation.

Cabrera vowed to adhere to this request: "Rest assured that

any travel plans that I make, I will inform the board."

Cabrera made three off-island trips last month, including a two-day trip to Hawaii with the Board of Regents for a conference hosted by the Pacific Post-secondary Education Council. She also attended an alternative energy conference and met with WASC in San Francisco, California in June.

NMC has until Oct. 15 to address all 10 recommendations of the accrediting commission, which threatened to shut down the college if problems are not corrected. The show-cause order, the second for NMC, was received on June 30.

The president's off-island trips are currently approved by King.

Cabrera earlier proposed to

put her travel authorization on the board's agenda for approval and to make sure all regents are aware of her off-island trips but this was opposed by some members, citing the potential for micromanagement.

NMC accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero also disagreed with the idea, citing accreditation standards that require the board to provide some leeway for the president to make decisions for the college.

Board vice chair Maria Paz Younis said the board must continue to demonstrate its trust and confidence in the president's judgment.

"We can always advice...but the important thing now is the board's trust and confidence in her," said Younis.

Alien worker gets over \$9,000 award

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An alien worker who sought the help of the Labor Ombudsman's Office in his complaint against his employer has prevailed and was awarded over \$9,000 in unpaid wages, damages, and reimbursement.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ordered Mohammed Abu Munshi, owner of SM Auto Shop, to pay employee Danilo C. Jacolbe \$8,700.75 in unpaid wages, compensatory damages, and reimbursement for processing fees, processing expenses, and complaint filing fee.

Cody also found Munshi liable to pay Jacolbe \$786.75 in liquidated damages and directed him to pay a \$1,000 fine to the CNMI Treasury.

Jacolbe was also allowed to transfer to a new employer.

Cody ruled that the employer breached the employment contract by failing to pay the full wages that Jacolbe earned for work he performed from Oct. 17, 2008 until March 7, 2009.

"As a result of such conduct, employer owes back wages to employee in the amount of \$636.75, for work actually performed, but not compensated," he said.

Cody determined that in the first four months of the contract, although Jacolbe was given some work, the employer failed to provide a full 40-hour per week schedule as required by the contract.

As a result, the hearing officer said, the employee was deprived of 342 hours of work at \$4.50 per hour, for a total of \$1,539 in unpaid wages.

Cody said the employer's continuing failure to provide regular, full-time work to Ja-

colbe constituted a breach of the contract and entitles the worker to damages amounting to \$6,300.

Cody found that the employer unlawfully deducted \$150 from Jacolbe's salary in order to reimburse himself for amounts he paid to process the employment application.

The hearing officer also determined that Jacolbe offered proof that he had paid \$55 for his own medical examination.

"All costs associated with the permit process must be paid by employer; therefore, employer should be required to reimburse employee for this amount," Cody said.

With respect to sanctions, Cody ruled that the evidence establishes that the employer violated the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 in a variety of ways.

Man, 56, allegedly beat up wife, tried to stab her

A 56-year-old man who was not recognized as the birthday celebrant at a party allegedly beat up his wife and tried to stab her with a knife in Garapan Saturday night.

Lucio O. Yasona was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial appearance on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery.

His bail was set at \$600 cash and \$5,400 in unsecured bond. Preliminary hearing was set for July 27 at 1:30pm.

In his report submitted to court, detective Jonathan Decena said that he and detective Buddy Igitol had responded to a disturbance at an apartment complex in Garapan on Saturday at 9:56pm.

Decena said preliminary investigation showed that earlier that evening, Yasona and his wife, along with her daughter, were at a party held inside their compound.

Yasona left the party early

and when he returned at 9pm, he asked his wife to follow him home so they could talk.

Once there, Yasona allegedly became very angry and violent, calling his wife names and threatening to kill her.

He allegedly grabbed the victim by the collar of her shirt repeatedly.

At one point, Yasona went to the kitchen and returned with a knife. He locked the door of their apartment room to prevent his wife's daughter

from coming in.

He then allegedly attempted to stab the victim with the knife and punched her on the chin.

Apparently, Yasona got mad because his name was not mentioned as a birthday celebrant at the party.

Yasona was represented at the hearing by chief public defender Adam Hardwicke. Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher represented the government. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo presided. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



NCLEX PASSERS

Congratulations to Paz Lozo Echavez and Ana Victoria Ga for passing the NCLEX exam! Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW10-IFB-013

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 07, 2010 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-Bid Conference for this project on July 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 28, 2010 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW10-IFB-013"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 04, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 04, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 04, 2010, and must be received no later than August 13, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, August 18, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on August 09, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ, Secretary of Public Health

Kilili: Appropriators approve more CNMI earmarks

» \$500,000 for PSS, \$75,000 for Tinian health programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has announced that two more earmarks for spending in the Northern Mariana Islands have been included in an FY11 appropriation bill.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies marked up its fiscal 2011 appropriation, including Sablan's requests for funding for the Public School System and for the Tinian mayor. The Subcommittee recommended \$500,000 for PSS and \$75,000 for Tinian.

"We continue to make good progress in this year's appropriation process," said Sablan. "In fact, we now have Subcommittee okays for \$1.475 million. So we

have topped last year's total of \$1.35 million and still have more requests under consideration. I am very grateful to Chairman David Obey, who heads up both the Appropriations Committee and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee, for providing so generously for the Northern Marianas in this year's bill—especially when money is so very tight."

The Subcommittee draft appropriation must now go to the full Appropriations Committee for approval, and then on to the House floor for a vote.

The \$500,000 earmark for PSS is for the general enhancement of K-12 programs. It could be used by PSS to expand its kindergarten offerings. Presently, kindergarten in the NMI is optional

and offered on a first-come, first-served basis; because there are not enough classrooms, teachers, or resources to have all kindergarten-age children in school.

The funds could also be used to upgrade high school computer networks, to support the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage project, and for purchase of new desks and chairs for elementary school students.

"Education is and will continue to be where I focus much of my work in Congress," Sablan said. "We simply have to invest in our human resources if we want to be prosperous 20, 30, 40 years ahead."

In fiscal 2010 Sablan obtained earmarks for PSS totaling \$350,000. He also obtained a \$200,000 earmark for the North-

ern Marianas Training Institute.

The \$75,000 earmark for Tinian, included in the FY11 draft bill, is to assist the Mayor's Office provide health education and outreach to patrons of the Tinian Center for Youth and Seniors.

The Center provides education and activities to help these groups stay active and reduce their risk of obesity and other diseases by adopting healthier lifestyles.

"Of course, Tinian benefits from any funding we get for the Public School System as a whole," Sablan said. "But I am very glad that we have now gotten an earmark that is directly for Tinian. In the years ahead, we need to continue to target our earmark requests to specific needs on each of our islands, where funding is limited."

"We the People" funded

Also included in the Labor, HHS, Education markup bill were requests Sablan made jointly with other members of Congress to continue funding for the We the People program.

"I have seen the We the People students demonstrate their knowledge and presentational skills for the last two years here in Washington," Sablan said. "It's so impressive."

"Once you have witnessed these students at work, you have to support the program. So I am pleased the Subcommittee has provided funding."

A total of \$23,636,000 was added to the FY11 bill to support We the People and the Cooperative Education Exchange. Both programs promote understanding of and commitment to the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy.

It is through this funding that

contestants from high schools, representing the Northern Marianas, have been able to travel to Washington for the We the People national finals.

We the People supplies every congressional district with free sets of specialized civics textbooks for schools at the upper elementary, middle and high school levels. Teachers benefit, too, from professional development seminars and institutes to improve their content knowledge and teaching methods in the areas of history and civics.

Sablan said that, as with the other \$900,000 in earmarks he has requested that have been approved at the Subcommittee level, the latest \$575,000 is just the beginning of the formal legislative process. "It's a major step, but not a guarantee of final approval. So we have to keep working and talking with our friends on the Committee." (PR)



PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

AMENDMENT NO. 01

PROGRAM YEAR 2010 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2010 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 13, 2010, no later than 4:30 p.m.

Potential Projects for Program Year 2010:

- Susupe Sports Complex Softball Field Fencing
- Susupe Complex Major Rehabilitation of the Gymnasium
- Construction of Tinian Fire Station
- Purchase of Tinian Fire Division Life Saving and Fire Protection Equipment
- Sinapalo Children's Park
- Rehabilitation of Dandan Children's Park

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

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Q: What if I am unhappy with my current home care provider. Can I change to another agency like Pacific Home Health Care, LLC.?

A: Absolutely, you have a right to choose who provides your care. Your current provider can "transfer" your care to Pacific Home Health Care, LLC. and you will not lose your home health benefit.

Q: How do I get home health services?

A: Typically your doctor would recommend that you get home health care, however if you have a skilled nursing or therapy need and aren't well enough to go out and get those needs fulfilled you would typically qualify for the home health benefit. Call your doctor or Pacific Home Health Care, LLC. at 234-CARE and we can typically advise if you qualify or not.

Q: Is my physician still involved with my care?

A: Yes, your physician manages all your care while in home health. The home health staff communicates and coordinates your care with your doctor via phone or faxed memo/notes.

Q: What makes Pacific Home Health Care, LLC., better or different from other agencies?

A: Pacific Home Health Care, LLC., staff practice under the guidelines of consistency: One client - the same staff members throughout the course of care, reliability, dependable trustworthy staff that can be counted on to do what is ordered by your physician, and presence - fully attending to the needs of the client from a holistic perspective.

Q: Who pays for home health care?

A: If you require the skilled services of a nurse, physical therapist or speech therapist and you have Medicare Part A, then Medicare pays for home health care as long as you meet the criteria. Additionally many Medicare Advantage plans cover these services but require some co-pay level, check your plan documents.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/3 Sat	7/1 Thu	7/1 Thu	6/29 Tue	6/26 Sat	7/9 Fri	7/5 Mon	7/4 Sun	6/27 Sun	6/27 Sun	7/5 Mon	7/9 Fri	7/11 Sun	7/13 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	006E	7/10 Sat	7/8 Thu	7/8 Thu	7/6 Tue	7/3 Sat	7/16 Fri	7/12 Mon	7/11 Sun	7/4 Sun	7/4 Sun	7/12 Mon	7/16 Fri	7/18 Sun	7/20 Tue
MELL SILOSO	007E	7/17 Sat	7/15 Thu	7/15 Thu	7/13 Tue	7/10 Sat	7/23 Fri	7/19 Mon	7/18 Sun	7/11 Sun	7/11 Sun	7/19 Mon	7/23 Fri	7/25 Sun	7/27 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	041E	7/24 Sat	7/22 Thu	7/22 Thu	7/20 Tue	7/17 Sat	7/30 Fri	7/26 Mon	7/25 Sun	7/18 Sun	7/18 Sun	7/26 Mon	7/30 Fri	8/1 Sun	8/3 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	007E	7/31 Sat	7/29 Thu	7/29 Thu	7/27 Tue	7/24 Sat	8/6 Fri	8/2 Mon	8/1 Sun	7/25 Sun	7/25 Sun	8/2 Mon	8/6 Fri	8/8 Sun	8/10 Tue
MELL SILOSO	008E	8/7 Sat	8/5 Thu	8/5 Thu	8/3 Tue	7/31 Sat	8/13 Fri	8/9 Mon	8/8 Sun	8/1 Sun	8/1 Sun	8/9 Mon	8/13 Fri	8/15 Sun	8/17 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/17 Sat	7/18 Sun	7/18 Sun	SKIP	7/21 Wed	7/23 Fri	7/25 Sun	SKIP	7/30 Fri	7/31 Sat	8/5 Thu	8/24 Tue	8/4 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	006E	7/24 Sat	7/25 Sun	7/25 Sun	7/25 Sun	7/28 Wed	7/30 Fri	8/1 Sun	SKIP	8/6 Fri	8/7 Sat	8/12 Thu	8/31 Tue	8/11 Wed
MELL SILOSO	007E	7/31 Sat	8/1 Sun	8/1 Sun	SKIP	8/4 Wed	8/6 Fri	8/8 Sun	SKIP	8/13 Fri	8/14 Sat	8/19 Thu	9/7 Tue	8/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	041E	8/7 Sat	8/8 Sun	8/8 Sun	8/10 Tue	8/11 Wed	8/13 Fri	8/15 Sun	SKIP	8/20 Fri	8/21 Sat	8/26 Thu	9/14 Tue	8/25 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	007E	8/14 Sat	8/15 Sun	8/15 Sun	SKIP	8/18 Wed	8/20 Fri	8/22 Sun	SKIP	8/27 Fri	8/28 Sat	9/2 Thu	9/21 Tue	9/1 Wed
MELL SILOSO	008E	8/21 Sat	8/22 Sun	8/22 Sun	8/24 Tue	8/25 Wed	8/27 Fri	8/29 Sun	SKIP	9/3 Fri	9/4 Sat	9/9 Thu	9/28 Tue	9/8 Wed

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Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie R. Alcantara
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402



Borja to file EEOC complaint vs PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former chief of the CNMI Public School System will file a formal complaint against the system with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission after his successor denied him of benefits he believes are due him.

Former education commissioner Dr. David Borja, who left the island for good on Sunday, confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he will raise the issue to the EEOC, the federal agency that enforces laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace.

The former education chief is now based in Gloucester, Virginia.

“All I really want is what is rightfully due me,” he said.

He believes these include reimbursement for his repatriation to his initial point of hire, St. Louis, Missouri; payment for services he rendered for summer school; and a balance of the housing benefit that he said he was shortchanged back in 1994.

Borja added that he should have also been offered the same benefit of use for extended day credit, or EDC, that other PSS leaders got.

“The use of EDC began way back when a BOE policy approved its use as a benefit for administrators and PSS management personnel for working more than the normal eight hour per day work schedule and working during weekends.

These type of work-hours I had performed since the year 2000 in my duties as school principal for Hopwood and later as associate commissioner for administrative services under the late Dr. Rita H. Inos,” said Borja.

“I was just disappointed that my request for assistance was not honored by Dr. Rita Sablan, though she had also benefited for EDC hours when she was the associate commissioner for instructional services,” added Borja.

Borja was denied these benefits after Sablan determined that the former PSS chief is not eligible anymore as they were already forfeited.

Borja was first hired to work at PSS as a classroom teacher from St. Louis Missouri on July

25, 1994, and was then entitled to a housing allowance and repatriation ticket as an off-island hire.

When Borja left the Commissioner’s Office in June 2008, he was immediately hired as a classroom teacher for Marianas High School; his two-year contract is set to expire September 2010.

He said his contract states that “upon renewal of an excepted services employment contract, all repatriation benefits stipulated under Section 8 [B], of the condition of employment in this contract shall be carried over into the renewed contract until such time that the employee is officially terminated from the PSS.”

Dr. Rita Sablan has yet to comment on the issue when contacted yesterday by *Saipan Tribune*.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Road closure today on Beach Road

The Department of Public Works will be cutting down and clearing trees and debris on Beach Road, Illeyang, by Moylan’s Insurance today, July 21, 2010, from 9am to 11am.

The public is advised to use all secondary roads or Middle Road for travel during this scheduled road closure. “We urge all motorists who have to travel between Triple J Motors and Moylan’s Insurance on Beach Road to be alert and use caution during the scheduled tree and debris clearing. Department of Public Safety’s Traffic personnel will be at the area to guide you,” said acting police spokesman Jason Tarkong. **(PR)**

ESGR to host ‘Lunch with the Boss’ briefing

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will be hosting a “Lunch with the Boss Briefing” at the Caladium Hall of Lao LaoBay Golf Resort

on Friday, July 23, 2010, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

The briefing is ideal for supervisors or managers who deal with servicemember-employees. ESGR will discuss its mission, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, and how ESGR can assist employers and service members in creating and maintaining a win-win working environment to meet the needs of the employer and the military.

To reserve a seat, contact Capt. Jo Blas at joblas67@gmail.com or 671-735-0456/671-483-0324 no later than July 18, 2010. **(PR)**

Saipan Summer Jam 2010

The Saipan Summer Jam team would like to invite participants who wish to join the car show on August 21. The categories include: Best Import, Best Monster Truck, Best Classic, Best Overall, and Soundoff Competition. Food vendors, car dealerships, and sponsors are also welcome

to participate. Contact Rhiner Aguon at 483-7769 or e-mail saipansummerjam@gmail.com for more information. **(PR)**

Program on Article XII next Tuesday

Citizens for Change of Article XII will be hosting a program on Channel 2 for the beginning next Tuesday, July 27, 2010, and running for three consecutive Tuesdays (Aug. 3, Aug. 10, and Aug. 17) from 7pm to 7:30pm. Be sure to tune in and learn more about issues relating to Article XII from David Sablan, Alex Sablan, Vince Seman, and others. **(PR)**

Senate hearing on status for alien workers

The Senate will hold another public hearing on the status of guest workers today, July 21, 6pm in the GTC Elementary School cafeteria. The notice and agenda can be found at http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/resources/files/Notice_07_21.10SenPub

[Hearingonlong-term.pdf](#). **(PR)**

Book-signing ceremony today at public library

The CNMI Library Council, Library Friends, and the staff and management of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library said that a book-signing ceremony will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at 5pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to introduce the recently published book, *From Colonization To Self-Government: The Northern Marianas Experience*. The event will feature the book’s author, retired Chief Justice Jose S.Dela Cruz, who will talk about the book and his reasons for writing the book. He will then take questions from members of the audience present. Afterwards, copies of the book will be available for sale. Forty percent (40%) of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to the library. He will make himself available for the book signing. The public is cordially invited to attend. **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

July 21, 1999

Teno lobbies for Korean Air

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked Korea’s Ministry of Construction and Transportation to grant the request of Korean Airlines to provide a Seoul-Saipan direct service to boost traffic and revive the CNMI’s ailing tourism economy. Visitor arrivals from Korea drastically declined after the pullout of Korean Air in August 1997 due to the tragic crash on nearby island Guam and the plunge of the Korean economy amid Asia’s financial crisis. While Asiana Airlines is currently providing Seoul-Saipan direct flights six times a week, Tenorio said he believes that the CNMI must be serviced by an additional carrier so that the travel demands can be met and the Northern Marianas can regain its lost market share.

Deep cost-cutting for Saipan mayor’s office

Currently beset with huge budget deficit, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan would be forced to further pare down its operations and move out of its present office in a bid to avoid overspending beyond its proposed appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000, according to officials. These drastic measures would enable them to live with the \$2.04 million budget set aside by the Tenorio administration, nearly 92 percent of which have been allotted for personnel costs. But legislators grilled the mayor during the budget hearing by the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday, questioning his decision to raise the salary of one employee by almost \$10,000 while slashing an average of five percent from the wages of 65 others.

July 21, 2000

Chamber leader chides Legislature

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday expressed disappointment over the failure of the Legislature to pass several important measures which would have helped revitalize the ailing business community. Speaking before Legislative leaders during the Chamber’s monthly meeting with members of the Senate and the House, Chamber president Lynn Knight said the Legislature has been moving very slow in getting the CNMI economy back on track. Many businessmen have held back their expansion plans and even discouraging potential investors to come here because they feel the economic climate on the island is too unstable and anti-business.

Overseas travels by Japanese projected to hit record levels

The number of Japanese who will travel overseas for this summer (July 1-August 31) is estimated to reach 3.23 million, or 102.2 percent up from last year’s record, according to a survey of the travel-market trends in the year 2000 summer season conducted by Japan Travel Bureau. Domestic travel in Japan during the period is estimated to shoot up 100.1 percent from the previous record, or a total of 82.58 million. This is the second year in which domestic and foreign travelers have expanded over the previous years, promising to reach record levels.

July 21, 2003

CHC manpower contracts up


With existing contracts with manpower agencies set to expire next week, the Commonwealth Health Center has come out with a shortlist of staffing agencies to whom it will award the contract to provide the hospital with needed nurses. CHC’s existing contracts with three firms-Paras Enterprises, SEAS Inc., and Marianas Health Services-will expire on July 31, earlier than what was initially reported, which was September 2003. These three companies also have pending proposals for a new CHC contract. It was not immediately known, however, if all three are in the shortlist. Paras Enterprises executive Vince Seman confirmed the existence of a shortlist in an interview, saying it came out a few weeks ago. He declined to reveal its content.

‘Dandan accreditation a concern’

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has expressed serious concerns about Dandan Elementary School, according to the Board of Education. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero said that, while WASC was diplomatic in its letter, it was “very concerned” about the school’s compliance with accreditation requirements, particularly in the areas of management and leadership. “WASC tries to be diplomatic and it’s being diplomatic but they are very concerned.I’m concerned about Dandan,” said the chairman. Dandan, together with Koblerville and San Antonio, recently went through a self-study review. Both Koblerville and San Antonio schools received an affirmation for their maximum six-year accreditation status, officials said.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE RECEIVED & PERMIT NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Works	07/20/10 SSm-2010-X-063	Land Clearing	Obyan	Shoreline APC	Under Review*
2. TD Amusement Inc.	07/14/10 SSm-2010-X-064	Carnival Rides	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Under Review*
3. Good Day Coordinating	07/15/10 SSm-2010-X-065	Filming	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Under Review*
4. Saipan Blue Coconut Marine Sports	07/20/10 SLRm-2010-X-066	Banana Boat	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review*
5. Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc.	07/20/10 SSm-2010-X-067	Building Renovation	Susupe	Shoreline APC	Under Review*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Spider-infested ship turned back from landing on Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Authorities in the U.S. territory of Guam have turned away a ship after thousands of spiders overflowed from its cargo.

The Guam Department of Agriculture said hundreds of large spiders and thousands of smaller ones were seen when stevedores began offloading insulation and beams for housing units from the ship, the M.V. *Altavia*.

The cargo was returned to the ship, and the Agriculture Department on Friday ordered that the ship not be allowed to dock. It was last ported in South Korea.

"When you get this many from this many various sizes, it's definitely an infestation," said Department of Agriculture director Joseph Torres.

Agriculture officials said they didn't know what type of spiders were on the ship. But they said it's a type that is not normally found on Guam and there was concern the spiders could damage the island's environment.

"It's not on Guam," Torres



Guam Department of Agriculture Director Joseph Torres shows some of the thousands of spiders found in a Guam-bound cargo ship at the department's Mangilao compound on Thursday July 16, 2010.

said. "We don't want it here."

The ship was carrying housing units and accessories that were to be used at a work force village expected to house up to 18,000 temporary workers.

Before the ship initially docked, officers with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency boarded the ship and gave clearance for cargo to be unlocked for offloading, said Bernadette Meno, marketing administrator for the Port

Authority of Guam.

But when port workers saw the spiders, the containers were ordered back on the ship and it was anchored in the harbor. The decision was later made not to let the ship return.

Marianas Steamship Agencies Inc. arranged for the ship's arrival and departure. Its vice president, Richard P. Sablan, said he will follow orders of customs, agriculture and U.S. Coast Guard officials.

USCIS publishes proposed fee waiver form Agency seeks public comment

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has proposed for the first time a standardized fee waiver form in an effort to provide relief for financially disadvantaged individuals seeking immigration benefits. USCIS has published a notice in the *Federal Register* seeking public comment on the proposed form, called Form I-912, Request for Individual Fee Waiver.

The proposed fee waiver form is the product of extensive collaboration with the public. In meetings with stakeholders, USCIS heard concerns that the absence of a standardized fee waiver form led to confusion about the criteria that had to be met as well as the adjudication standards. USCIS worked with stakeholders in developing the fee waiver form that is now posted for comment.

"Our goal is to bring clarity and consistency to our processes," said USCIS director Alejandro Mayorkas. "We are doing so now in the critical area of providing the financially disadvantaged with access to immigration benefits."

Mayorkas further stated that the method by which the proposed fee waiver form was devised—through extensive collaboration with the public—will be a hallmark of his approach to improving agency processes.

Currently, applicants requesting a fee waiver must do so by submitting an affidavit or unsworn declaration requesting a fee waiver and stating the reasons why he or she is unable

form provides clear criteria and an efficient way to collect and process the information.

The public is encouraged to comment on the proposed fee waiver form at www.regulations.gov. The comment period closes on Sept. 13, 2010.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit www.uscis.gov. (**USCIS**)

ON THE NET

www.regulations.gov

to pay the filing fee. The new proposed fee waiver form is designed to verify that an applicant for an immigration benefit is unable to pay the fee for the benefit sought. The proposed

FACT SHEET

The form will standardize the way applicants and petitioners submit a fee waiver request to USCIS by providing clear criteria to the applicant and bringing consistency to the application process.

The form proposes clear evidentiary requirements. For example if an applicant can show that he or she has received a means-tested benefit in the last six months and has evidence to document this claim, there is no need to submit further evidence.

The form instructions provide guidance on the application types for which a fee

waiver can be requested.

One Form I-912 may be filed for both the underlying application fee as well as the biometrics fee associated with that application.

USCIS officers will be trained on how to adjudicate the form after the Office of Management and Budget approves its use.

The Form I-912 will be available for public comment at www.regulations.gov until Sept. 13, 2010. For more information on USCIS and its programs visit us online at www.uscis.gov. (**USCIS**)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Juliet Gomez! Greetings come from your friends here on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction the following items on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m. at the CDA Office Conference Room.

- **Washer:** (1) Coin Operated, Whirlpool
Model: CA2751XYWO, SN: CH2155987
Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- **Dryer:** (2) Coin Operated, Speed Queen Commercial
Model: EE5111WF, SN: S6491205YMU
Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- **Safe:** (1) Hase
Dimensions: H71"x W41"x D25"
Located: CDA Office
- **Signs:** Poker signs
Located: CDA Office



The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS";
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Conference Room** on **Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises; and buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PSS RFP 10-091

"MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR THE PSS HEAD START PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing "Mental Health Consultation Services for the Public School System's Head Start Program." The Scope of Work is available beginning on July 21, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions must be in writing and address to Kathleen Keiko Yamagata, Head Start Program Director via fax to (670) 664-3760 or e-mailed to keikoyamagata74@yahoo.com no later than August 10, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 10-091" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than August 18, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 172Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Immigration policy defies simplistic solutions

Americans should demand more from their public policy makers than bumper-sticker rhetoric like “What part of illegal don’t you understand?”

As the national debate about immigration policy moves off the back burner, Americans should be wiser than many of their leaders, including those in Arizona who in April passed the strict and simplistic immigration law that brought the controversial issue to the forefront.

Next week, the U.S. Justice Department will begin arguing in federal court for a temporary restraining order to stop Arizona from putting its new law into effect on July 29.

The state law requires local law enforcement officials to check the immigration status of people “where a reasonable suspicion exists that a person is an alien who is unlawfully in the United States.” That “show us your papers” order should be anathema to every American.

In bringing suit, the Obama administration made a risky political calculation. National Latino and civil rights organizations already had filed similar lawsuits contending that immigration policy is a federal role that trumps state or local law. The administration could have let them carry the ball; instead it intervened directly.

It was the right decision, even though some Democrats cringed that it wasn’t politically wise in an election year. This is a profoundly important civil rights issue, made all the more obvious by Republicans trumpeting the issue of “states’ rights.”

Wasn’t that battle cry buried with George Wallace and Lester Maddox?

Apparently not. Two Republican senators from southern states—Jim DeMint of South Carolina and David Vitter of Louisiana—have proposed an amendment to a Senate bill set for debate next week that would bar the federal government from blocking implementation of the Arizona law.

Then there’s the fear-mongering of Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer. She declared that a “majority” of illegal immigrants smuggle drugs into the country and that illegal immigrants have caused a huge spike in violent crime, including beheadings and kidnappings.

Federal, state and local law enforcement authorities say crime statistics bear no such evidence.

Border states and, indeed, the nation need more federal resources to combat immigration-related problems. The Obama administration has added millions of dollars to the Department of Homeland Security operations along the international borders and audited payroll records of more than 2,900 companies that resulted in more than \$3 million in fines and firings of thousands of illegal immigrants.

For almost 25 years, the nation has needed sound, effective immigration reform that deals sensibly with illegal immigration as well as workplace enforcement, legal immigration, economic needs and border security.

But now, with polarized lines drawn, any prospect of thoughtful, fact-based immigration reform seems like a pipe dream.

People migrate here to work. The legal foreign-born population in the United States outnumbers illegal immigrants more than 3 to 1. They come here to teach, practice medicine, open businesses and work in hotels and restaurants. You encounter them every day.

Simplistic solutions like Arizona’s ignore the dozens and dozens of ways that people come to the United States, from political refugees to foreign student visas to family ties. What part of legal don’t you understand?

Most Americans, including street cops, have no clue about the legal complexity and inefficiency of the U.S. immigration system. Beat cops have enough challenges without requiring them to decipher Byzantine civil immigration codes. Let the cops be cops.

(c) 2010, St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Insolvency: A beastly creature

The federal, state, city and local governments are bankrupt! The fed is spending three dollars per five bucks it collects. The NMI has just overspent by as much as \$23 million as of last month.

It’s a colossal financial mess that doesn’t leave much room for dithering with soothing political niceties. Not when deficit spending is headed to the nether world of bankruptcy, if not already. Is leadership ready to step up to the plate of hard financial reality?

Employing the comfort zone to gloat “more” while sinking, borrow “more” as we drown in deficit spending; scapegoat “more” while refusing to admit our inadequacies; ignore “more” of our responsibilities approving failed policies that has turned paradise into our hellish hole; among other “more” of the same tired old excuses. In the midst of this fatal reality, can we still engage in the complete perversion of the truth?

Undoubtedly, the complexity of the puzzle brings unemployment issues to the fore, prompted by this beastly financial monstrosity. Would federal bailouts help and is this alternative a realistic paradigm? Wouldn’t Uncle Sam insist that we put our fiscal house in order first? It’s fair to say that Uncle Sam wouldn’t be riding into town to cushion our propensity to overspend.

Bad timing of financial paralysis is sufficient to trigger the domino effect of pessimistic consumers withholding spending at every turn. Coupled with the lack of fresh investment funds to scaffold wealth and jobs creation, we’re saddled for a long ride with far, far less for far more. Call it financial famine!

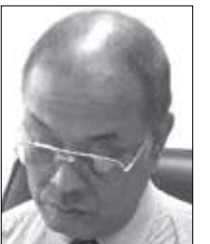
There’s the Medieval Latin term “spiritus animalis,” the word animalis means “of the mind” which, in behavioral economics, refers to “a restless and inconsistent element in the economy.” It’s about our peculiar relationship with ambiguity or uncertainty. There are times when we are paralyzed by it, at other times it refreshes and energizes us, overcoming our shapeless apprehensions and indecisions.

The global shift in thought patterns, i.e., the current crisis, was caused precisely by our changing confidence, temptations, envy, resentment, and illusions—especially by changing stories about the nature of the economy. Stories of success faded into history in the mid-nineties. Such stories triggered other stories, including our very own stories of the economy headed elsewhere. It has and it continues deteriorating as it slides deeper south.

How do we revive confidence that has drained these isles of the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



potential for some appreciable economic growth? Better yet, why does Guam thrive while we take a nosedive? What have they done right that we’ve mangled to our demise? Something’s amiss and we geographically situated just 250 miles north of it. Solvency has become as rare as a good mango. Must deal with, yes, insolvency!

■ ■ ■ ■

Casino: Japan’s great gamble

Two casino titans are eyeing Japan as the next venue for casino gambling. They are Sheldon Adelson of Las Vegas Sands Corporation and Michael Wynn of Wynn Resorts.

While gambling is illegal in Japan, there could be seismic shift on this issue as cross political parties join hands to introduce legislation that would open up casino in the Land of the Rising Sun.

There’s strong viewpoint that Japan needs to stimulate the economy energetically that won’t use tax money. The only way this could be done is through casinos.

Why have these casino titans set their sights on Japan? Japan is seen as the “last major untapped market” for the casino business. It is a potential gold mine for industry planners and key players. A study by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government says that some 2.25 million Japanese would venture into casino venues at home.

South Korea has 16 casinos but they are for foreigners only; locals aren’t allowed to play and half of their customers are from Japan. “In terms of sophistication, aspiration, size of individual incomes and the amount of disposable income, Japan is at the top of every scale in this region,” according to Toru Mihara, a professor of Osaka University of Commerce. “This is the biggest market left.”

There’s serious doubt that the NMI has the comparative advantage to outdo Japan when she decides to allow the development of casino at home. The Land of the Rising Sun’s advantage would render the NMI lots of sunsets even at dawn.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I enjoyed your recent verification massage!

Here is an email I received a few days ago EXACTLY as it appeared in my inbox.

Attn: webmail Owner

We just confirmed that you have not upgrade to the new web-mail version. That is why we are sending you this message to upgrade your account now. This is because we are preventing your web-mail from closure. And also we have notice that your mail have been used for send spam mail to other mail. To prevent your account from this you will have to send a verification massage so that we will confirm from our computer system that you are the rightfully owner of this mail and also to upgrade your account to the version. To upgrade your account you have to send us the following information so that we can upgrade as soon as possible.

CONFIRM YOUR EMAIL IDENTITY BELOW

Email User name :

EMAIL Password :

Last login date:

Website:

Warning!!! if you refuse to send this information to us within (1) weeks of receiving this warning you will lose your account. Warning Code: PX2G99AAJ

Thank you for using webmail

NOTE: This message is authorize by the webmail Project email account protector unit. Notification message will be send back to you after verifying your account before account could be reset. All right reserve.

Priceless, don't you think? With such great material practically falling into my lap (pause) top, I was inspired to compose a response!

Dear Mr. or Ms. Email Scam Artist,

Thank you for your recent message. Today is your lucky day! For while I'm afraid that better judgment and my fortunate familiarity with the English language dictate that I not comply with your request for my personal and confidential information, I do feel compelled, to offer YOU something quite valuable in my response!

First, it is obvious to me that either English is not your native language, or you simply did not take the lessons in elementary school English as seriously as you should have. If the former, then by no means do I wish to embarrass or belittle you. If the latter, while understandable, it is not forgivable considering the goals of your business. In either case, I suggest to you that the response rate of your recent e-mail blast could be greatly improved with some modification of its content. Please accept the following critique.

1. Your tone is not professional

First of all, your e-mail lacks the standard business tone. It jumps from simplistic to informal, to hostile and even downright threatening.

For instance, "If you refuse..." is a very strong, intimidating and

threatening phrase usually reserved for collection agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, and certain LAPD cops. Threats for failure to comply with a request for what is an optional upgrade just don't pass the "appropriate use of force" test of business communication. Be businesslike, yet courteous in your written communication.

2. Misspellings

Many of your words are misspelled. For example, while the difference of one character may seem negligible to you, for those who speak English, there is, in fact, a significant difference between a message and a massage. Trust me, the two are not interchangeable, and someone who is promised one, only to receive the other could be (a.) Delightfully surprised by the unexpected, (b.) rudely offended by the inappropriate, or (c.) sadly disappointed by an unfulfilled expectation. In any event, while it might be fun to consider what exactly a "verification massage" entails (Who's doing the massaging? What exactly is being verified?), at best it's a confusing concept. Misspellings detract from your business credibility.

3. Bad grammar

Your sentence structure is at times simplistic and filled with grammatically faulty construction. It suffers from poor subject-verb agreement ("your mail have been"), incorrect conjugation and persistent failure to use past participle tense ("have not upgrade," "is authorize by"); interchanging plural with singular ("1 weeks"), among many other glaring violations that defy appropriate categorization. Furthermore, legitimate business writers don't start sentences with "And!" Yes, poor grammar is the kiss of death for business literature.

4. Lack of punctuation

Those pesky little dots and dashes in English are such a nuisance, aren't they? Commas, semicolons, colons, periods—who has the time to learn them all? I can certainly relate. However, these little characters are not cosmetic accessories to be donned or discarded based on your sense of fashion, personal taste or mood. The mean something! They help with the flow of the idea and are as necessary for communication as oil and gas are for the operation of your vehicle! Use them!

5. Inappropriate capitalization

Proper names like "WebMail" should be capitalized. See previous critique as a similar reminder that capitalization is not based on whim or mood, but on specific rules.

Finally

In our increasingly-tech savvy and Internet-based world, your legitimacy as a business, your rate of consumer response, and your brand identity all hinge upon how effectively you communicate with your prospects, especially by email.

I suggest that taking the time to be more conscientious about your spelling, grammar and overall tone, might actually result in higher profits for your scam, er I mean business. With that in mind, I believe my suggestions and advice may be of significant monetary

A World Expo flop by the US

By **FRED A. BERNSTEIN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Seeing a statue of Rachel Carson, the crusading American environmentalist, at the World Expo in Shanghai moved me almost to tears. After all, Carson is a symbol of independent thought and action, both vital U.S. exports.

Too bad the statue wasn't at the U.S. pavilion. But that building, sponsored in part by Carson's nemesis, Dow Chemical, was never going to be a celebration of the power of individuals. Indeed, the pavilion, with its bland tribute to "community," says little about what makes America, and Americans, special.

If you think the U.S. message in Shanghai this summer doesn't matter, you're wrong. More than 70 million people, most of them Chinese, are expected to attend the Expo (an event that, in size and cost, makes the Beijing Olympics look like a Little League tournament). How the countries of the world present themselves will influence how China views them—with political, cultural and economic consequences far into the future.

Given the high stakes, nearly 200 nations turned out for the Expo. The hits include Britain's pavilion, which celebrates biodiversity with a gorgeous building housing thousands of seeds, and Switzerland's, with its exhilarating chairlift ride through an artificial Alp. Some of the national pavilions are educational; others are just plain fun.

But the U.S. pavilion, which is neither, might as well have been across the Huangpu River in the Expo's corporate section.

The cause is a 1990s law that restricts federal funding for international expositions. This silly bit of isolationism meant the pavilion had to be built by a nonprofit group and given to the U.S. as a

gift. State governments were asked to contribute to the nonprofit, but only three—Texas, Tennessee and Hawaii—came through. As a result, there's a map in the lobby that leaves 47 states unidentified—an appalling symbol of disunity. (Chicago and San Antonio also contributed.)

The other donors were corporations. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who stepped up fundraising after she took office, and the companies that wrote checks should be commended—without them, the U.S. would have been AWOL. (That may be unthinkable, except that it has already occurred: In 2000, the U.S. was a no-show at the World Expo in Hanover, Germany. And in 2005, when the Expo was held near Nagoya, Japan, Toyota's hometown, only the automaker's largess made it possible for the U.S. to participate.)

There's nothing wrong with corporate pavilions, as long as they're identified as corporate pavilions. General Motors is showing concept cars in its Shanghai Expo outpost, while Coca-Cola is touting the PlantBottle—a plastic container made partly from sugar cane—at its Happiness Factory.

Meanwhile, Chinese companies such as Broad Air Conditioning and Vanke, a real estate developer, have put on elaborate shows. And a consortium of Shanghai businesses got together to build a huge, high-tech pavilion called the Dream Cube. Its designer is Edwin Schlossberg, the New Yorker whose firm is responsible for some of the world's classiest interactive exhibitions. Schlossberg's building, made of miles of LED tubes, lights up like a vast, high-tech jungle gym, enthralling visitors, whose motions affect the display. By contrast, the U.S. pavilion has all the appeal of a suburban multiplex. (It was designed by Clive Groat, a Canadian who specializes in "attraction" architecture.)

But the real problem is inside the building, where bland ideas

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*.

Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback to walt@passionprofit.com.

value to you in your endeavors. I have, therefore, attached an invoice in the amount of \$149.50 for my proofreading, translation and editing services. Once this payment is received, I shall send you the fully corrected, guaranteed more effective version of your original e-mail for your use.

Please make check or money order payable to "Walt Goodridge." If you prefer to pay by credit card, please provide your credit card number, expiration date, CVV code and billing address to me by e-mail at your earliest convenience. Refusal to do so may result in severe karmic consequences.

Yours truly,

Walt F.J. Goodridge

English as s Second Language Coach on Saipan

Summary

So, what have we learned today, boys and girls?

1. There are many ways to tell that an e-mail is fraudulent. You can add poor grammar to that list. I have NEVER encountered a scam e-mail that was well-written!

2. You should, or should have paid attention in school. It can earn you more money, and help you hang on to the money you have!

3. Walt offers reasonably-priced proofing and editing services (though he only works with legitimate, well-intentioned, ethical, non-environmentally-destructive businesses.)

4. Yes, this e-mail was sent to me with a fraudulent intent. However, if all goes well and we find the silver lining, the teacher in me can be rewarded, the scammer can improve his (or her) English communication skills. Everyone wins! It just goes to prove that even a "verification massage" can have a happy ending!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

reign. On giant video screens, spokespeople for corporate sponsors such as Chevron and PepsiCo spout platitudes about the future, and a little girl gets her neighbors to help her turn a rubbish-strewn lot into a garden. When a thunderstorm appears over the garden, seats in the auditorium shake and a bit of rain falls from the rafters. It's a cute gimmick, but the exhibition designers used it five years ago in Japan, that time to spice up a video about Benjamin Franklin.

Where are the examples of American democracy and freedom, of American know-how and imagination, and of American heroes?

For those things, visitors have to search elsewhere at the Expo: for the statue of Rachel Carson, outside the Broad Air Conditioning pavilion; for a tribute to Frank Gehry, at an exhibit sponsored by the city of Bilbao, Spain (Gehry would have designed a great U.S. pavilion!); and for videos of an American girl, describing what makes cities livable, look to the Russian pavilion. (Incredibly, the Russians shot the video in front of the U.S. Capitol, smartly appropriating an American symbol of freedom.) Carson, Gehry and the girl are Americans worth celebrating.






What will the millions of Chinese who visit the Expo think of the United States? The most sophisticated of them, especially the 45,000 a day who get inside the U.S. pavilion, will see a country determined to promote its corporations rather than its people or its political system. The rest—and this is even scarier—may visit the Expo, a microcosm of the world in 2010, and not think about the U.S. at all.

Fred A. Bernstein, a freelance architecture writer, wrote about the Shanghai Expo for *Architect* magazine. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly sunny, showers around. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny, showers around	Rain at times	Rain	Periods of rain
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83 ▼78

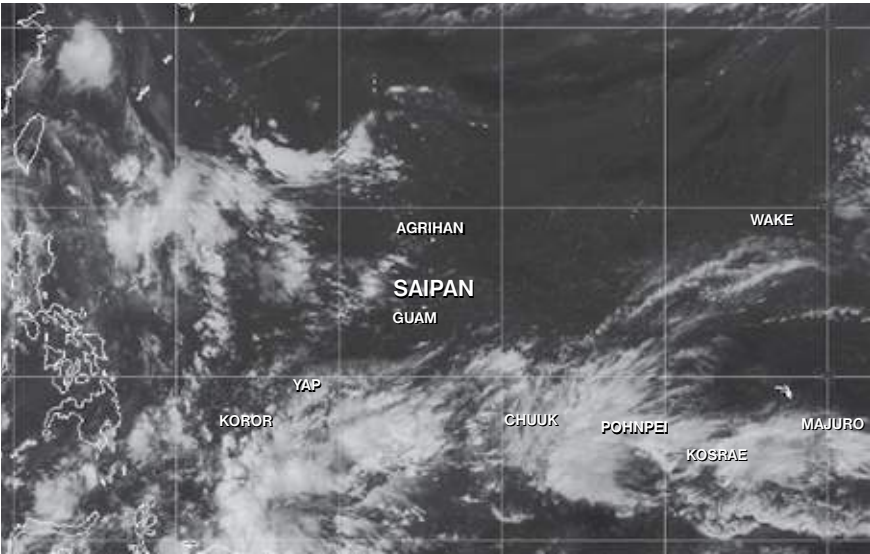
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼74
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83 ▼75
London	Showers	▲71 ▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼83
New York	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼74
Osaka	Sunny	▲93 ▼75
Paris	Showers	▲74 ▼60
Pusan	Sunny	▲81 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲90 ▼72
Salem	Sunny	▲88 ▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲91 ▼79
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2010

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence south of an upper-level low centered near 26N139E is combining with low-level convergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line extending from 23N130E to 25N143E to 15N137E to 15N130E back to 23N130E. A surface trough near Yap and Palau extends southward from 9N136E to 1N134E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap and Palau within 150 miles of a line extending from EQ135E to 5N137E to 7N144E. A band of trade-wind convergence stretches across Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae and to the date line passing just south of Majuro. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 3N and 10N from 149E to 158E and within 125 miles of a line stretching from 6N159E to 5N166E to 6N180E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:50 PM	1:25 AM
Thursday	3:45 PM	2:17 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:10 AM
Saturday	5:27 PM	4:05 AM
Sunday	6:12 PM	4:58 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 20, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA				NAGOYA-SAIPAN			
DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily	DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BEIJING				BEIJING-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	Daily
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	Daily	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL630/641	6:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:30pm	10:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Continental adds new daytime Guam-Manila flight



HAGATNA, Guam—Continental Micronesia announced will enhance its current schedule of flights between A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport and Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport by adding a Wednesday morning flight on Oct. 6.

The new daytime flight will complement its current Saturday morning and daily evening Guam-Manila non-stop flights.

This new additional weekly flight service enhances the current eighth weekly non-stop flight schedule between Guam and Manila, which helps improve connectivity and meet

The new flight schedule effective Oct. 6, 2010 is as follows:

From Guam to Manila					
Flight	Frequency	Departure	Departure Time	Arrival	Arrival Time
CO893	Wed. Sat.	Guam	7:20am	Manila	9:00am
CO933	Daily	Guam	7:05pm	Manila	8:40pm
From Manila to Guam					
Flight	Frequency	Departure	Departure Time	Arrival	Arrival Time
CO892	Wed. Sat.	Manila	4:15pm	Guam	9:50pm
CO934	Daily	Manila	10:55pm	Guam	4:35am

growing market demand within the region. The service is operated with a Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 14 seats in business class and 141 seats in economy on the route.

"Continental continues to see growing demand for travel to the Philippines and has the right-sized fleet of aircraft to scale up capacity when need-

ed," said David Kendell, Continental's director of sales & marketing for Micronesia and Asia. "We are excited to provide our valued customers with added travel options. I am confident the new service will perform well and encourage the travel community to take advantage of the attractive promotional fares that have been released for this

new service offering."

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,700 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 132 domestic and 137 international destinations. Continental is a member of Star

Alliance, which overall offers more than 21,200 daily flights to 1,172 airports in 181 countries through its 28 member airlines. With more than 40,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with its regional partners, carries approximately 63 million passengers per year.

Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For nine consecutive years, Fortune magazine has ranked Continental as the top U.S. airline on its "World's Most Admired Companies" airline industry list. For more company information, go to continental.com. (*Continental*)

SEC chief appearing after Goldman deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the Securities and Exchange Commission is appearing before Congress days after the passage of sweeping financial regulation that gives the agency new powers and a landmark settlement of civil fraud charges with Goldman Sachs & Co.

SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro is telling House lawmakers at a hearing Tuesday that the agency has been revamping itself, strengthening enforcement efforts and taking measures to protect investors in the wake of the financial crisis and past agency failures.

"We have taken significant steps to make the SEC more vigilant, sharp and responsive, and to focus the agency squarely on its core mission of protecting investors, maintaining fair and orderly markets, and facilitating capital formation," Schapiro says in testimony prepared for the hearing by a House Financial Services subcommittee. "We brought in new leaders across the agency. We streamlined our procedures. We worked to reform the ways we operate. We began modernizing our systems."

Feds: Oil, gas leaking from cap on ruptured well

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP's broken well was leaking oil and gas again Monday for the first time since the company capped it last week, but the Obama administration's spill chief said it was no cause for alarm. The stopper was left in place for now.

Ever since the cap was used to bottle up the oil last week, engineers have been watching underwater cameras and monitoring pressure and seismic readings to see whether the well would hold or spring a new leak, perhaps one that could rupture the seafloor and make the disaster even worse.

Small amounts of oil and gas started coming from the cap late Sunday, but "we do not believe it is consequential at this time," retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said.

Also, seepage from the seafloor was detected over the weekend less than two miles away, but Allen said it probably has nothing to do with the well. Oil and gas are known to ooze naturally from fissures in the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico.

At an afternoon briefing in Washington, Allen said BP could keep the cap closed at least another 24 hours, as long as the com-



Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen speaks to the news media about the BP PLC gulf oil spill in Washington Monday, July 19, 2010.

pany remained alert for leaks.

BP and the government had been at odds over the company's desire to simply leave the cap in place and employ it like a giant cork in a bottle until a relief well being drilled deep underground can be used to plug up the well

permanently.

Allen initially said his preference was to pipe oil through the cap to tankers on the surface to reduce the slight chance that the buildup of pressure inside the well would cause a new blowout. That plan would require releasing

millions more gallons of oil into the ocean for a few days during the transition—a spectacle BP apparently wants to avoid.

On Monday, Allen budged a bit, saying unless larger problems develop, he's not inclined to open the cap.

Also on the table: Pumping drilling mud through the top of the cap and into the well bore to stop up the oil flow. The idea is similar to the failed top kill plan that couldn't overcome the pressure of the geyser pushing up.

BP said it could work now because there's less oil to fight against, but it wasn't clear how such a method would affect the cap's stability. Allen said the relief well was still the plan for a permanent fix.

BP and the government are still trying to understand why pressure readings from the well are lower than expected. Allen offered two possible explanations: The reservoir the oil is gushing from is dwindling, or there is an undiscovered leak somewhere down in the well.

"I'm not prepared to say the well is shut in until the relief well is done," which is still several weeks away, Allen said. "There are too many uncertainties."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ADB: China may need rate hikes to avoid inflation

SINGAPORE (AP)—China should boost interest rates or allow its currency to strengthen to help curb inflation pressures, the Asian Development Bank said Tuesday. China, like most Asian countries, boosted government spending and slashed lending rates last year to help spur economic growth amid a global recession. The region's policymakers are now mulling how much to ease stimulus spending and raise rates to keep their economies from overheating. "Over the next 12 to 18

months, interest rates may need to rise significantly depending on how exchange rate policy is handled," the development lender said in a semiannual policy report on emerging East Asia released in Singapore. The Manila-based ADB defines emerging East Asia as Southeast Asia plus China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

60 votes in place, Dems ready to extend jobs money

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a new face and a 60th vote for breaking a Republican filibuster, Senate Democrats are preparing

to restore jobless checks for 2.5 million people whose benefits ran out during a congressional standoff over deficit spending. President Barack Obama says, "It's time to do what's right." But first, Obama and his Democratic allies are pressing for maximum political advantage, blaming Republicans for an impasse that halted unemployment checks averaging \$309 a week for those whose eligibility had expired. Obama launched a fresh salvo on Monday, demanding that the Senate act on the legislation—after a vote already had been scheduled for Tuesday—and blasting Repub-

licans for the holdup. "The same people who didn't have any problem spending hundreds of billions of dollars on tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans are now saying we shouldn't offer relief to middle-class Americans," Obama said.

Oil hovers below \$77 amid mixed signs on economy

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose slightly to near \$77 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as crude traders wait for clearer signals on the strength of the global economy and stock markets. Benchmark crude for August de-

livery was up 7 cents to \$76.61 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 53 cents to settle at \$76.54 on Monday. Oil has traded between \$64 and \$87 so far this year and has hovered near \$76 for the last two weeks amid light summer trading volume. Investors are eyeing a slow U.S. economic recovery and mixed corporate results so far during second-quarter earnings season. "Investors are confident enough to keep the markets where they are ... but not excited enough to push them higher," Sander Capital said in a report.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 4,407.70 Up 35.00 (+0.80%)	HONG KONG 20,365.70 Up 274.75 (+1.37%)	JAKARTA 2,973.17 Down 2.40 (-0.08%)	K. LUMPUR 1,337.67 Up 4.32 (+0.32%)
MANILA 3,405.69 Down 18.60 (-0.54%)	SEOUL 1,740.20 Up 8.25 (+0.48%)	SINGAPORE 2,954.15 Up 8.73 (+0.30%)	BANGKOK 833.01 Up 2.61 (+0.31%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 10,154.43 +0.56%
S&P 1,071.25 +0.60%
NASDAQ 2,198.23 +0.00%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1366
British Pound	0.6538
Canadian Dollar	1.0509
Chinese Yuan	6.7770
Euro	0.7609
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7755
Indian Rupee	47.1000
Indonesian Rupiah	9,055.0000
Japanese Yen	86.9950
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2120
New Zealand Dollar	1.4027
Philippine Peso	46.4150
Singapore Dollar	1.3718
South Korean Won	1,212.4000
Swiss Franc	1.0510
Taiwan Dollar	32.0860
Thailand Baht	32.2800

In U.S. dollar terms
Source: Associated Press

Nation

RI, Ariz. immigrant measures diverge on key points

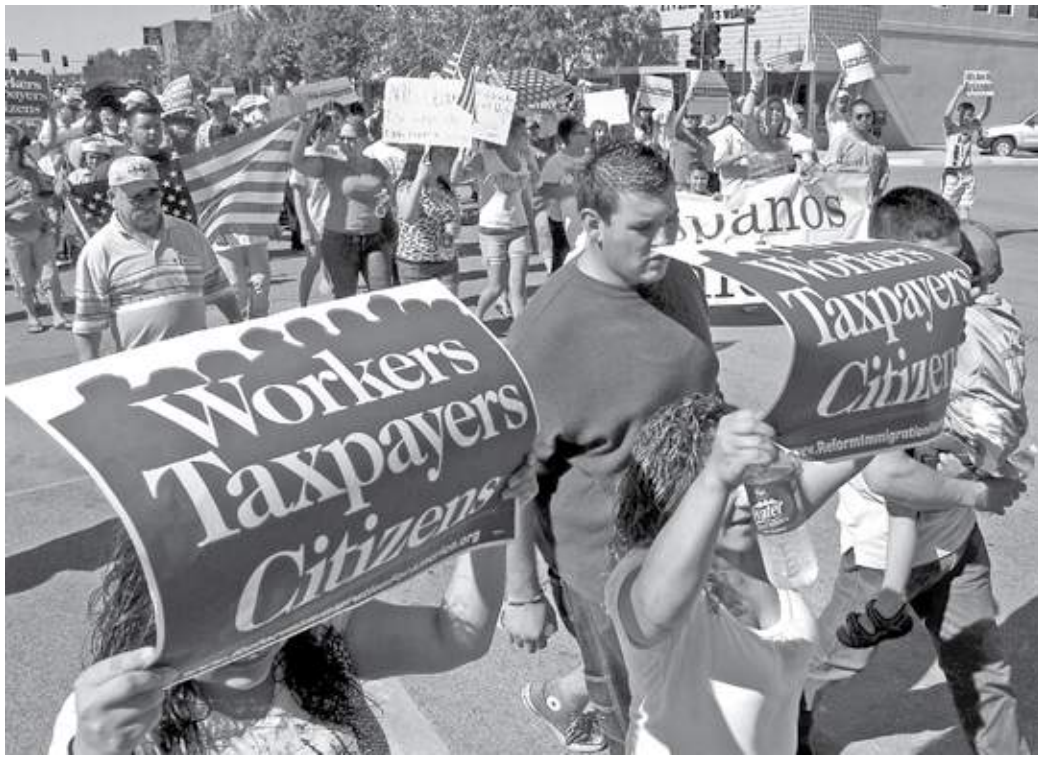
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Supporters of Arizona's new illegal immigration law have in recent weeks cited Rhode Island as a state where police have been quietly carrying out comparably tough enforcement without a court challenge from the Obama administration.

But in Rhode Island, both sides of the debate agree that the executive order issued by Gov. Don Carcieri in 2008 is far less sweeping than the Arizona law, which takes effect this month.

Comparisons of the two approaches are intended to rationalize the law in Arizona, generally more conservative than Rhode Island, by suggesting it's already more or less in place in a heavily Democratic state, said Steven Brown, a leading critic of the governor's order and executive director of the Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The only reason I can see individuals focusing on Rhode Island is for political purposes and stretching what's happened here as a way to try and compare a largely Democratic state—a blue state—with a red state and somehow claim that Rhode Island should be looked at similarly," Brown said.

The Arizona law also makes it a state crime for immigrants



Protesters carry signs and flags during an immigration march and rally to protest the Arizona immigration law on Saturday, July 17, 2010 in Garden City, Kan.

to not carry immigration documents; Rhode Island's executive order has no such provision.

Arizona's law generally requires local police officers, while enforcing other laws, to question a person's immigration status if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that the individual is in the country illegally.

Rhode Island's order directs

the State Police to help with immigration enforcement and encourages—but, importantly, does not require—local police to seek a suspect's immigration status.

State troopers in Rhode Island routinely check the immigration status of crime suspects, as well as people pulled over for traffic violations, if they have reasonable suspicion and will alert

federal immigration authorities if they believe or can determine that someone is in the country illegally, said State Police Superintendent Brendan Doherty.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will then decide whether the person should be immediately taken into custody or can be released pending a court hearing, Doherty said.

The ACLU has received complaints since the executive order from people who say they were unfairly pulled over or interrogated, Brown said, but such accusations can be hard to prove in court. A Boston-based federal appeals court this year upheld a Rhode Island trooper's decision during a 2006 traffic stop to seek immigration documents from passengers in a van carrying about a dozen Guatemalans who admitted to being in the country illegally.

Commentators on blogs and television have seized this month on the State Police protocol to draw parallels to the Arizona law.

In a July 7 post on the National Review website titled "United States v. Arizona—How 'Bout United States v. Rhode Island?", commentator Andrew McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor in New York, asked why the Obama administration had not already sued Rhode Island for "carrying out the procedures at issue in the Arizona immigration statute."

William Jacobson, an associate clinical law professor at Cornell University, wrote this month on his blog, Legal Insurrection, that "Arizona is the new Rhode Island" and said it was ironic that strict enforcement practices would be carried out in the "state of Sheldon Whitehouse," a Democratic senator.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 men burned in Wash. state methanol explosion

SEDRO-WOOLLEY, Wash. (AP)—Two men who were apparently trying to take an unusual thrill ride were seriously injured in an explosion at a shop that builds and services race cars in Washington state. Fire Chief Dean Klinger told the Skagit Valley Herald the men put about four gallons of methanol in a 55-gallon barrel in the parking lot Sunday night, sat on top and lit it for a "barrel ride." Klinger says, "Apparently it was supposed to slide across the parking lot like a rocket. Instead, it blew up." He says one end of the barrel flew 120 feet. The men were responsive when paramedics arrived at Funk Racing. They were taken to a local hospital, then flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with severe burns.

Girl dead, boy abandoned in Calif. home

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Police are looking for a family of five who fled the country, leaving a 4-year-old boy behind in their rented home with the body of his 3-year-old sister. Police have not released details on the girl's death but said her body showed signs of visible trauma when it was found Sunday morning. An autopsy was performed Monday. The boy was found sleeping in the southwest Bakersfield house and placed in protective custody. Both children had been adopted by their uncle, Alberto Garcia, 26 and his wife Carla, 26. Investigators believe the couple fled to Mexico with their three biological children in their white 1997 Ford Expedition.

Court grants bail to jailed ex-media mogul Black

CHICAGO (AP)—Jailed former newspaper magnate Conrad Black was granted bail on Monday by a federal appeals court, weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court kicked his 2007 fraud conviction back to a lower court. The British baron and three other former executives from the media empire Hollinger International were convicted of swindling the company's shareholders out of \$6.1 million. It was not immediately clear when Black would be released from the federal prison in Florida. The conditions of his release would be determined by U.S. District Court judge in Chicago, according to an order from the three-judge panel. Last month, the Supreme Court weakened the "honest services" law that was central to Black's fraud conviction. The justices left it up to a lower court to decide whether the conviction should be overturned.

AIDS breakthrough: Gel helps prevent infection

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

For the first time, a vaginal gel has proved capable of blocking the AIDS virus: It cut in half a woman's chances of getting HIV from an infected partner in a study in South Africa. Scientists called it a breakthrough in the long quest for a tool to help women whose partners won't use condoms.

The results need to be confirmed in another study, and that level of protection is probably not enough to win approval of the microbicide gel in countries like the United States, researchers say. But they are optimistic it can be improved.

"We are giving hope to women," who account for most new HIV infections, said Michel Sidibe in a statement. He is executive director of the World Health Organization's UNAIDS program. A gel could "help us break the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic," he said.

And Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health said, "It's the first time we've ever seen any microbicide give a positive result" that scientists agree is true evidence of protection.

The gel, spiked with the AIDS drug tenofovir, cut the risk of HIV infection by 50 percent after one year of use and 39 percent after 2 1/2

years, compared to a gel that contained no medicine.

To be licensed in the U.S., a gel or cream to prevent HIV infection may need to be at least 80 percent effective, Fauci said. That might be achieved by adding more tenofovir or getting women to use it more consistently. In the study, women used the gel only 60 percent of the time; those who used it more often had higher rates of protection.

The gel also cut in half the chances of getting HSV-2, the herpes virus that causes genital warts. That's important because other sexually spread diseases raise the risk of catching HIV.

Even partial protection is a

huge victory that could be a boon not just in poor countries but for couples anywhere when one partner has HIV and the other does not, said Dr. Salim Abdool Karim, the South African researcher who led the study. In the U.S., nearly a third of new infections each year are among heterosexuals, he noted.

Countries may come to different decisions about whether a gel that offers this amount of protection should be licensed. In South Africa, where one in three girls is infected with HIV by age 20, this gel could prevent 1.3 million infections and 826,000 deaths over the next two decades, he calculated.

He will present results of

the study Tuesday at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna. The research was published online Monday by the journal Science.

"We now have a product that potentially can alter the epidemic trends ... and save millions of lives," said Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim, the lead researcher's wife and associate director of the South African program that led the testing.

It's the second big advance in less than a year on the prevention front. Last fall, scientists reported that an experimental vaccine cut the risk of HIV infection by about 30 percent. Research is under way to try to improve it.

Abducted Calif. girl, 7, is placed with foster family

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 7-year-old girl who was snatched from California as a toddler and raised in Arizona has learned her true name and was being given therapy to cope with the trauma of leaving the only family she remembers, an investigator said Monday.

Amber Nicklas was placed with an undisclosed California foster family until authorities can determine where she finally will live, Los Angeles County sher-

iff's Capt. Patrick Maxwell said.

He had no immediate word on how the girl was acclimating after being taken weeping last week from the home of a Phoenix couple who run a palm-reading business.

The family called her Sandra. "She has been told what her birth name was. She is aware," Maxwell said. "She actually likes the name Amber." County child welfare officials have provided the girl with a therapist, he said.

Tea party group defensive over blog about NAACP

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—An official with the Tea Party Express on Monday blasted its expulsion from a national coalition over its refusal to oust a former chairman who satirized the NAACP in a controversial blog posting.

The political action committee that raises money for Republican candidates was booted from the National Tea Party Federation for refusing to rebuke spokesman Mark Williams, whose posting referred

to NAACP president Benjamin Jealous as "Tom's nephew and NAACP head colored person."

Tea Party Express coordinator Joe Wierzbicki said it was "arrogant and preposterous" for the federation to expel his group.

"Circular firing squads of groups within the tea party movement attacking one another accomplish nothing, and on this issue the Tea Party Federation is wrong," he said in a statement.

The friction highlights fault

lines within the loosely joined tea party movement, which has no central organization or by-laws. Internal squabbling could weaken its political clout, and it comes at a time when the NAACP and other have sought to discredit the movement.

The tea party—thousands of community groups that promote limited government, free markets and other conservative and Libertarian principles—has resisted any notion of centralized leadership

Asia

Gates, Clinton to visit DMZ dividing 2 Koreas

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Tuesday that he and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will make an unprecedented trip together to the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas.

Gates said he and Clinton will visit the DMZ on Wednesday, meeting with U.S. and South Korean troops protecting one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. It would be the first time the United States' top diplomat and defense chief visit the DMZ together.

The two Koreas technically remain in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953. The U.S., which fought on the South Korean side, keeps 28,500 troops in South Korea to protect its ally against any aggression.

"Tomorrow Secretary Clinton and I, along with our Korean counterparts, will visit the DMZ to highlight how important operations are there to the security of the peninsula as well as the region and demonstrate our steadfast commitment" to South Korea, Gates said during a visit Tuesday morning to Camp Casey, a U.S. base near the DMZ.

Gates' trip, which began Monday



South Korean tourists pass by the barbed-wire fence at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, near the demilitarized zone (DMZ) of Panmunjom, South Korea, Thursday, July 15, 2010.

night, comes amid continuing tension on the Korean peninsula over the March 26 sinking of a South Korean warship.

An international investigation concluded in May that a North Korean submarine fired a torpedo that sank the warship near the tense Korean sea

border, killing 46 South Korean sailors. North Korea flatly denies the accusations, and has warned any punishment would trigger war.

61 people killed as 2 trains crash in east India

SAINTHIA, India (AP)—The 22-year-old was asleep on the overnight train, headed to his distant job at a call center, when an enormous jolt awakened him and his coach flipped. He lay with his leg broken for five hours, crushed under the dead bodies of other passengers as he waited for help.

The powerful crash between two express trains at a station in eastern India early Monday morning killed 61 people and injured scores more. The force of the crash was so intense the roof of one car was thrust onto an overpass above the tracks.

Accidents are relatively common on India's sprawling rail network, which is one of the world's largest but lacks modern signaling and communication systems. Most crashes are blamed on poor maintenance and human error.

It was the second major train crash in West Bengal state in two months. On May 28, a passenger train derailed and was hit by a cargo train, killing 145 people. Authorities blamed sabotage by Maoist rebels for that crash.

Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee rushed to the site of Monday's crash and raised the possibility it was another case of sabotage. But there no immediate indication that rebels were to blame, and railway officials said the cause of the crash was unclear.

A handful of accidents in north India in January killed at least a dozen people and were blamed on heavy winter fog that impaired visibility. Other fatal crashes happened when rickety rail bridges give way.

However, accidents as deadly as Monday's crash are rare.



It happened about 2 a.m. when the fast-moving Uttarbanga Express slammed into the Vananchal Express as it was leaving the platform at Sainthia station, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Calcutta.

Two passenger cars and a luggage car of the Vananchal Express were destroyed, leaving a tangle of twisted metal. The passenger cars were reserved for those on the cheapest tickets and such carriages are usually packed to capacity.

Residents scrambled onto the crashed cars, searching for survivors. Hours later, rescue workers arrived, bringing heavy equipment to cut through the debris.

Karzai calls for more control of funds, security

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president urged international partners to help Afghanistan move toward responsibility for its own security and government programs, as an ambitious international conference in the Afghan capital opened Tuesday.

Delegates at the one-day conference are expected to adopt a plan that involves transferring security in all 34 provinces to the government by the end of 2014—more than three years after President Barack Obama's date for the start of an American troop drawdown.

President Hamid Karzai said Afghanistan and its Western backers share "a vicious common enemy." But, he said, victory will come in giving Afghans as much responsibility as possible in combatting the insurgency within its borders.

Karzai, wearing a traditional striped robe and peaked fur hat, was flanked by

international diplomats including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Karzai said the transition of security to his government was a priority for him, along with getting as much donor funds through the government as possible. He said the country has been hurt by parallel programs that have not worked together.

"It is time to concentrate our efforts," Karzai said.

The conference comes at a critical juncture in the war. NATO and Afghan forces are moving into areas controlled by the Taliban, and the insurgents are pushing back. June was the deadliest month for U.S. and international forces with the deaths of 103 service members, including 60 Americans.

Delegations from more than 60 na-

tions and numerous international organizations were in attendance at the Kabul conference, which will in some ways be considered a feat if it simply manages to finish Tuesday without any security incidents.

A major security operation virtually shut down Kabul for the conference. Police manned checkpoints throughout the city and blocked off major intersections.

The country's intelligence agency arrested a number of insurgents Monday night who were camped out at a house in Kabul and presumably planning an attack on the city, said a police official who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to comment on intelligence agency operations.

Officials with the intelligence agency declined to comment, saying they would make a formal statement in coming days.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino gunmen release hostage in poll dispute

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The son of a Philippine elections commissioner was released by gunmen who snatched him nearly a month ago and demanded new elections in five southern towns, officials said Tuesday. The abduction led to clashes last week between troops and gunmen that killed a suspected kidnap gang leader. Elias Yusoph, one of the country's six election commissioners, had accused the military of not doing enough to free his 22-year-old son and threatened to retaliate against the kidnappers. Nuraldin Yusoph was freed Monday on an isolated road outside southern Cagayan de Oro city, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Romeo Lustestica said. No ransom was paid, said Jesus Dureza, chairman of the Mindanao Development Authority who helped in the negotiations. The military said the kidnappers had been talking directly to Yusoph's family.

Pakistan police say army kills 3 suspected bombers

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Army guards shot and killed three suspected suicide bombers as they tried to enter a sprawling military firing range in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, police said. Four soldiers were wounded in the attack, which showed the persistent threat insurgents pose to Pakistan's security forces, especially those operating near the Afghan border. Police official Akhtar Ali Shah said the assailants refused to stop for a check at the entrance to the range in the northwestern city of Mardan, prompting the guards to open fire. The men wore suicide jackets that detonated when they were shot at, wounding the soldiers. Police had collected body parts of the attackers for DNA test, Shah said.

2 Pakistani Christians killed at courthouse

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Gunmen killed two Pakistani Christian brothers accused of blasphemy against Islam as they left court on Monday, a government minister and police said.

The men were chained together when the attack took place in the eastern city of Faisalabad as they were being taken back into custody after their court appearance.

They were arrested a month ago after leaflets allegedly bearing their names and featuring derogatory remarks against the Prophet Muhammad were found in the town, said Shahbaz Bhatti, the minister for minority affairs. He said mosques in Faisalabad had called for the men to be attacked.

Bhatti said he suspected the men were falsely accused of blasphemy by people with a grudge against them. Their families had maintained their innocence, he said.

The brothers were killed by two gunmen as they left court, said police officer

Rana Ahmed Hasan. A police officer accompanying the men was wounded, he said, adding the killers escaped.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws have been often criticized by religious minorities and human rights activists.

In its latest report on religious freedom in Pakistan, the U.S. State Department said the laws are often abused to settle local disputes and discriminate against minorities.

Muslims make up an estimated 97 percent of Pakistan's 180 million people, most of them Sunni.

Bhatti said he believed the brothers were innocent.

"I personally don't think that anyone who wrote derogatory things against Muhammad would put their names on the bottom," he said. "This was just to settle a personal issue."

Bhatti has long campaigned against the blasphemy laws, which were introduced President Gen. Zia ul-Haq in the 1980s to win the support of hard-line religious groups.

World

Syria bans full Islamic face veils at universities

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria has forbidden the country's students and teachers from wearing the niqab—the full Islamic veil that reveals only a woman's eyes—taking aim at a garment many see as political.

The ban shows a rare point of agreement between Syria's secular, authoritarian government and the democracies of Europe: Both view the niqab as a potentially destabilizing threat.

"We have given directives to all universities to ban niqab-wearing women from registering," a government official in Damascus told The Associated Press on Monday.

The order affects both public and private universities and aims to protect Syria's secular identity, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the issue. Hundreds of primary school teachers who were wearing the niqab at government-run schools were transferred last month to administrative jobs, he added.

The ban, issued Sunday by the Education Ministry, does not affect the hijab, or headscarf, which is far more common in Syria than the niqab's billowing black robes.

Syria is the latest in a string of nations from Europe to the Middle East to weigh in on the veil, perhaps the most visible symbol of conservative Islam. Veils have spread in other secular-leaning Arab



Two Syrian women, left, wear the niqab, a face-covering Islamic veil, as they shop in Souk Al-Hamediah, Damascus' oldest market, Syria, Monday, July 19, 2010.

countries, such as Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, with Jordan's government trying to discourage them by playing up reports of

robbers who wear veils as masks.

Turkey bans Muslim headscarves in universities, with many saying attempts

to allow them in schools amount to an attack on modern Turkey's secular laws.

The issue has been debated across

Europe, where France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands are considering banning the niqab on the grounds it is degrading to women.

Last week, France's lower house of parliament overwhelmingly approved a ban on both the niqab and the burqa, which covers even a woman's eyes, in an effort to define and protect French values—a move that angered many in the country's large Muslim community.

The measure goes before the Senate in September; its biggest hurdle could come when France's constitutional watchdog scrutinizes it later. A controversial 2004 law in France earlier prohibited Muslim headscarves and other "ostentatious" religious symbols in the classrooms of French primary and secondary public schools.

Opponents say such bans violate freedom of religion and personal choice, and will stigmatize all Muslims.

In Damascus, a 19-year-old university student who would give only her first name, Duaa, said she hopes to continue wearing her niqab to classes when the next term begins in the fall, despite the ban.

Otherwise, she said, she will not be able to study.

"The niqab is a religious obligation," said the woman, who would not give her surname because she was uncomfortable speaking out against the ban. "I cannot go without it."

Al-Qaida cleric: Yemen to be Obama's Afghanistan

CAIRO (AP)—A U.S.-born, al-Qaida-linked cleric warned the American people that President Barack Obama will mire U.S. forces in Yemen just as Afghanistan, in a message appearing Monday on militant websites.

The 13-minute audio message, in English, comes just days after the U.S. Treasury department put Anwar al-Awlaki on its list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists.

"If George W. Bush is remembered as being the president who got America stuck in Afghanistan and Iraq, it's looking like Obama wants to be remembered as the president who got America stuck in Yemen," he said.

In another message released separately, al-Qaida's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri vowed that the American troops would leave both Afghanistan and Iraq in "defeat."

U.S. officials worry al-Qaida's offshoot in Yemen has found refuge in



This Oct. 2008 file photo by Muhammad ud-Deen shows Imam Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen.

the country's remote, lawless areas and could be plotting attacks against American and other Western targets. Critics, meanwhile, have warned that imposing a deadline for the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq could provide the terror network a propaganda tool.

Al-Zawahiri praised Taliban and al-Qaida-linked groups, saying they are "moving from one victory to another" in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Taliban will "enter Kabul in triumph and Obama will leave it in fear," he said in the hourlong message, his first since May.

"Oh Obama, whether you admit it or not, Muslims have defeated you in Afghanistan and in Iraq and you will be defeated in Palestine, Somalia and the Arab Maghreb," he said, referring to Islamic countries in northern Africa. "You will not only be defeated militarily and economically but most important you will be defeated morally."

Rights group: Remove UK torture inquiry judge

LONDON (AP)—The judge leading the British inquiry into charges that his country's intelligence services colluded with the torture of suspected terrorists abroad has had his impartiality compromised and must be removed, a leading human rights group said Tuesday.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said earlier this month that he was appointing former appeals court judge Peter Gibson to investigate allegations that British spies were complicit in the mistreatment of terror suspects held by the U.S. and other allies in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

But Reprieve noted that Gibson has served as Intelligence Services Commissioner, Britain's spy watchdog, since April 2006. The rights group said the government was effectively asking Gibson to "judge whether his

own work was effective."

Reprieve—which has represented several former Guantanamo Bay inmates—has long demanded an official inquiry into alleged British involvement with rights abuses abroad and initially welcomed Cameron's announcement that he intended to "clear up this matter once and for all."

British spies have not been accused of torturing detainees, but several former suspects have alleged that British officials were complicit in their mistreatment while they were held by agents from the U.S., Pakistan and other countries.

In the most notorious case, Bin-yam Mohamed, an ex-Guantanamo Bay inmate who is among 12 former detainees now suing the British government, says he was severely beaten, subjected to sleep deprivation and had his genitals sliced with a scalpel.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK's Cameron: Releasing Lockerbie bomber was wrong

LONDON (AP)—Britain's prime minister criticized the decision to free Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi from jail last year, saying Monday that the move had been "completely and utterly wrong." But while David Cameron told the BBC he had opposed the decision to return the cancer-stricken prisoner to Libya on compassionate grounds in August, his office seemed to rule out a government inquiry into whether lobbying from oil company BP helped pave the way of al-Megrahi's release. "As leader of opposition, I couldn't

have been more clear that I thought the decision to release al-Megrahi was completely and utterly wrong," Cameron told the BBC before leaving Tuesday on his first visit as British leader to the United States, where he is expected to face questioning about the case.

US official: Mexican car bomb likely used Tovex

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—A drug gang that carried out the first successful car bombing against Mexican security forces likely used an industrial explosive that organized crime gangs in the past have stolen from private companies, a U.S. official said Monday.

The assailants apparently used Tovex, a water gel explosive commonly used as a replacement for dynamite in mining and other industrial activities, said the U.S. official, who is familiar with the investigation but spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the Mexican-led investigation. The U.S. official had no other details on how the bomb was constructed, and Mexican officials declined to comment. The car bomb killed three people—including a federal police officer—Thursday in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, and introduced a new threat in Mexico's drug war. Mexican authorities say the assailants lured police

and paramedics to the scene through an elaborate ruse seemingly taken out of an Al-Qaida playbook.

Iraqi cleric meets with PM candidate in Syria

BAGHDAD (AP)—Anti-American Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr took a rare, public step into the political arena Monday, meeting in neighboring Syria with the man directly challenging Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for his office. The talks between al-Sadr, who is nominally allied with al-Maliki, and former premier Ayad Allawi, who heads the heavily Sunni-backed Iraqiya coalition, appeared to be as much about showing

al-Maliki that al-Sadr is keeping his options open as it was about any firm political agreement between the two men in the offing. Al-Sadr rarely travels outside of his home base in Iran, where he lives in self-imposed exile. His followers won 39 seats in the 325-seat parliament in Iraq's national election in March, giving him considerable sway over who becomes the next prime minister. Following the ballot, al-Sadr joined a coalition with al-Maliki's list, but the deep-rooted hatred many in the Sadrist camp feel toward the prime minister—who's jailed thousands of their supporters—has stalled any further development of their alliance.

Focus

By FELICIA FONSECA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

An American Indian lacrosse team's refusal to travel on passports not issued by the Iroquois confederacy goes to the heart of one of the most sensitive issues in Indian Country—sovereignty.

The rights of Native nations to govern themselves independently has long been recognized by federal treaties, but the extent of that recognition beyond U.S. borders is under challenge in a post-Sept. 11 world.

After initially refusing to accept Iroquois-issued passports because the documents lack security features, the State Department gave the team a one-time waiver.

But leaders of the Iroquois Nationals squad announced Saturday that a last ditch attempt to persuade British officials to recognize their passports



Members of the Iroquois Nationals lacrosse team pose for photographs in Battery Park Thursday, July 15, 2010 in New York.

AP

Iroquois passport dispute raises sovereignty issue

had failed, meaning the team wouldn't play in its last scheduled game.

The team has maintained that traveling on anything other than an Iroquois-issued passport would be a strike against the players' identity.

"Any documents or IDs we put forth recognizing our members should also be recognized by the federal government and other governments," argued Sanford Nabahe, a member of the Lone Pine Paiute-

and Western Shoshone are among the few American Indian nations in which members have had a form of their own passports.

The understanding that the Iroquois Confederacy's lands are independent from the U.S. is taught early on in school, team member Gewas Schindler said Thursday as the team waited out the dispute in New York.

"You know that as a young person that you are sovereign, that you are not part of the United States," he said. "We were the first people here."

The National Congress of American Indians, based in Washington, D.C., has advocated on behalf of the lacrosse team, urging British officials to allow the members entry into England on their Iroquois-issued passports.

But some say the team's adamant position has gone too far.

Michael Smith, a Navajo living on the Southwestern reservation, said it's important to note that the Iroquois live in the U.S. on land he and his father fought to protect as Marines.

The Iroquois land isn't recognized globally as a country, so the team's efforts have been almost futile, he said.

"You're flying overseas," he said. "Get your U.S. passport and go kick some butt."

Luanna Bear, a member of the Tulsa Creek Indian Community, part of the larger Muscogee Creek Nation in Oklahoma, said anyone who travels abroad should have the proper documents.

"A lot of tribes don't want to lose

their identity, so that's what they're trying to keep," said Bear, 48. "But I believe you have to follow all laws."

Some Montana and Wyoming tribes have discussed issuing passports, but none has taken that step, said Gordon Belcourt, executive director of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council.

"If you're acknowledged as a government-to-government entity, there should be an opportunity for them to issue their own passports and visas," Belcourt said.

Previously, tribal members who lived near the country's northern border faced no problems when traveling between Canada and the U.S., he said. Now, tribal members, along with other travelers seeking to cross the country's borders, must adhere to stricter security guidelines.

"With 9/11, everything changed," Belcourt said.

In recent months, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been working with tribes to develop tribal ID cards with enhanced security features. Those would be good for arrivals in the U.S. only by land or sea but couldn't be used in lieu of a federal passport. Twenty-five tribes already have or are working toward formal agreements.

Robert Holden, deputy director at the National Congress of American Indians, said the Washington, D.C.-based group is hopeful the use of secured cards could be expanded to allow tribal members to travel abroad.

"It would have all the secure attributes that a passport would have, certainly a record of membership of that respective nation," Holden said. "So why would it not be accepted beyond the borders of the United States and accepted internationally?"

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., also has urged the federal government to work with other countries to develop internationally recognized travel documents for American Indian nations.

Like the Iroquois' view of lacrosse, Hopi belief is that running is a gift from the creator, said Bucky Preston, a Hopi from the reservation village of Walpi in northeastern Arizona.

Preston said passports that have been issued by elders in his tribe have represented what it means to be a sovereign people—being honest and sincere, and having faith and belief in the creator, along with concern for all creation.

"I can understand why they're standing strong on this," Preston said.

Among the Hopi, passports in the form of an eagle feather, sometimes tucked in a buckskin-covered pocketbook, have been issued in the past by elders to only a select few. To have one means you've been entrusted to carry messages from the Hopi people to other parts of the world.

Few have been issued and the man most well-known for having used one for decades to travel internationally died in 1999, said Leigh Kuwan-wisiwma, director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office.

Preston knows of only one man who still has a so-called Hopi passport. But Preston said he is not physically able to travel anymore, and Kuwan-wisiwma doubts access to other countries would be granted given increased security measures.

"That's the reality of today's situation where the tribes continue to be dealt with on this relegated status and subject to the power of the United States government," Kuwan-wisiwma said.



AP

In this Dec. 26, 1940 picture, Iroquois Indians who were born in Canada march through the main street of Buffalo, N.Y., carrying signs protesting that the U.S. pilgrim fathers were not required to be fingerprinted.

But the British government wouldn't budge in denying team members entry into England without U.S. or Canadian passports, keeping the Iroquois Nationals from competing at the World Lacrosse Championships in Manchester in the sport their ancestors helped create.

Shoshone, who—like many in the American Indian community—closely followed the Iroquois' passport dispute. "The (federal) government has given us that autonomy."

The Iroquois, whose members mostly live in New York, Ontario and Quebec, along with the Hopi

Campus Life

100 percent of school's first class college-bound

By SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—For each boy, the new school offered an escape and a chance at a life that seemed beyond reach.

Krishawn Branch was getting D's, smoking reefer a lot, skipping school twice a week. His mother was too busy working to know what he was doing. He liked to fight and hang out in the streets; having relatives in gangs was his armor.

When a young man in suit and tie came to tell his eighth-grade class about a new high school on Chicago's South Side, Krishawn wanted no part of it—until he heard something tempting: Students would have laptops. Suddenly, he was on board.

Marlon Marshall was nonchalant about everything, school included. He did just enough to get by. His mother pushed him to go to college. Sometimes she'd yell at him and his brothers for their bad grades. Once she was so upset when she saw their report cards, she just sobbed.

Marlon had heard a pitch, too, about the school. He'd already been rejected by other high schools and his grades were mediocre. But students for this new academy would be accepted by lottery so maybe, he thought, he had a chance.

Marcus Bass figured there just had to be something better for him. Barely a teen, he'd been shot at, robbed a couple of times and had seen terrible things in his housing project. His parents argued constantly; life was chaotic.

He was sold by the recruiter's description of a "different" high school.

Urban Prep would be a charter high school. It would bring together some 150 boys from some of the poorest, gang-ravaged neighborhoods and try to set them on a new track. They'd have strict rules: A longer school day—by two hours. Two classes of English daily. A uniform with jackets and ties.

And Urban Prep had a goal—one that seemed audacious, given that just 4 percent of the Class of 2010 was reading at or above grade level when they arrived at the school in 2006.

In four years, they were told, they'd be heading to college.

■ ■ ■ ■

From the very start, Tim King had a grand plan.

"I wanted to create a school that was going to put black boys in a different place," says the founder of Urban Prep, "and in my mind, that different place needed to be college."

King faced long odds: Slightly more 40 percent of black male students in the Chicago public schools graduate high school; a little more than one in five earn a college degree in six years.

Still, on an August day in 2006 he gave members of the first class of Urban Prep a peek at the end of the rainbow. He took them on a guided tour of Northwestern University—just 25 miles away, but a foreign land to kids who had never visited a college or, in some instances, even Chicago's Loop.

"When you think about it, it's crazy because a city like Chicago is teeming with college campuses yet these students don't have those experiences," says King, a Georgetown Law School grad who decided to become an educator.

It had taken four years for King to win permission to open the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men. About 75 percent of the funding comes from the Chicago public schools, the



In this photo taken Saturday, June 12, 2010, Urban Prep High School senior Marlon Marshall, left, has his tears of joy wiped away by his mother Vernita Lockett, after his graduation as a member of the first class of 107 male students in Chicago.

rest is private.

King's plan was both idealistic and grounded in the harsh realities of inner-city life: He'd take boys from tough situations, many way behind in school, and if they followed the rules and his road map, they'd get into college.

That was not the route he'd taken.

There was poverty.

King says that meant confronting some basic questions: Do the boys have enough to eat? Can they realistically have a clean shirt every day? Do they have a place to study at night?

There was violence.

Some Urban Prep students had to wor-

Then there were those thorny issues not in any teaching syllabus.

King remembers a freshman's words: "I hate this school. ...I never had this many men tell me what to do."

"This was a guy," King says, "who had no relationship with his father. He had never had a man in his life who said, 'Pull

Everybody said we wasn't going to make it, but we're here and about to do bigger and better things.

Growing up the son of a construction company owner and an educator, King says the only question around the dinner table was: "Are you going to business school, law school, or medical school?"

It was a different story for Urban Prep's Class of 2010.

About 85 percent came from low-income families, the overwhelming majority single-mother households. Many kids lagged far behind in academics, but that wasn't their only obstacle.

ry about navigating a clear path around gangs and had to plot different bus routes to avoid getting jumped. Others stashed their uniforms in lockers, knowing that a red-and-gold lion crest on a black blazer can be a bull's eye.

Englewood is the South Side neighborhood that captured national attention last year when a 16-year-old public school honors student was stomped and beaten to death with wooden planks in a horrifying brawl captured on video.

up your pants, tuck your shirt in, do your homework' ... the things for me growing up I certainly took for granted."

Urban Prep's dress code—no earrings, sneakers, baggy pants, long hair or bling—is essential to a school philosophy that blends discipline with a reach-for-the-stars message.

College pennants line the hallways. Posters and quotations from black leaders—Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, George Washington Carver—fill the

walls. Photos of students with the famous—President Barack Obama and director Spike Lee—are tacked to bulletin boards.

But nothing is more important than the creed, uttered every morning at 8:30 at a gathering called "community." First come the routine announcements, then the celebrations of success accompanied by snatches of the hip-hop song "Swagger Like Us" ("school of hard knocks, I'm a grad ...") belching from giant speakers. Finally, the oath that is the school's guiding principle:

"We believe... We are college bound. ...

"We are exceptional—not because we say it, but because we work hard at it

"We believe in ourselves. ... We believe."

■ ■ ■ ■

Krishawn didn't believe.

When he discovered what he'd signed up for, he wanted out even before school began.

No girls? School until 4:30 p.m.? A jacket and tie? You've got to be kidding. But his mother urged him to hang in. So did an aunt who threatened to stop buying him clothes and giving him spending money.

So he stayed, and raised hell.

He fought, he cursed the teachers, he got suspended. He wanted to get kicked out.

"I went to the principal and said, 'Do what you got to do. I don't want to be here. Just send me home,'" he recalls. "I didn't like the discipline. I didn't like the surroundings. I didn't like the uniform. I didn't like anything."

Krishawn started sophomore year on probation (he had janitorial duties after school). He was failing some classes and straddling two worlds: As an Urban Prep student, he'd hop a bus and elevated train for an hour commute. As the kid clinging to street life, he'd furtively tuck a white T-shirt into his book bag—part of the uniform of the gangbangers—so he could hang out with them.

After fighting with another student sophomore year, Krishawn left Urban Prep.

He was surprised when one of the deans seemed to be teary-eyed at a final meeting. "It shocked me someone did care," he says. He transferred to a Chicago public school, but couldn't stop his downhill slide, receiving two F's and 3 D's.

Then came a brutal wake-up call.

A close friend was beaten to death with a bat. "He was a guy who knew how to fight," he says with admiration. "These days, people don't like to lose."

Krishawn started seeing Urban Prep in a new light. He pleaded to return.

"I knew I was going down the wrong path," he says. "I had to graduate or my life was going to be nothing. ... I'd seen the streets were not going to get me anywhere."

He lobbied Evan Lewis, the recruiter who'd visited his elementary school and had become a mentor.

"He didn't take no or maybe for an answer," Lewis says.

Krishawn was readmitted. He knew there were doubters; he wanted to prove them wrong. He buckled down, and his junior year was honored five times with a "student of the week" designation. With it, comes a reward: a gold tie.

"My personality changed," Krishawn says. "My posture changed. My speech

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100 PERCENT

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changed. A lot about me has changed."

But he still has a trace of swagger, a glint in his eye and an easy charm that helped him become president of the Student Government Association.

"He has made if not a 180-degree turn, maybe a 160-degree turn....," says Lewis, vice president of institutional advancement. "He's a very smart kid, a very savvy kid. He sees the big picture. That's the reason he survived on the streets. That's the reason he'll be successful."

■ ■ ■ ■

There are second chances at Urban Prep.

Every student has at least one mentor—maybe a coach or a teacher among a predominantly young faculty. About 60 percent of teachers at the Englewood campus (Urban Prep has another school and plans to open a third this fall) are black men. They serve as confidantes and role models to students, many of whom have no fathers in their lives.

"Sometimes they need someone to advocate for them," says Joffrey Bywater, a 29-year-old history teacher. "Sometimes they just need someone to listen to them."

All staff members have school-assigned cell phones so students (and parents) can phone day or night. And they do.

Just ask Corey Stewart, a 24-year-old history teacher.

Students will call and say, "I'm stranded and I don't have a way from downtown to get home," Stewart says. "Can you come pick me up?" Absolutely, I'm on my way. Or 'Mr. Stewart, I'm afraid that I might get jumped on after school today. Is it possible you can take me home?' Of course."

Stewart says he doesn't worry about blurring lines or becoming too friendly with his students and won't hesitate to fail someone who's not measuring up.

His emphasis, though, is on inspiration. So a discussion about Aristotle and Plato, for instance, might lead to comparisons to rap legends Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. "You can bring up the most archaic ideas in class and you can connect it to real life, and they will love it," he says.

Stewart leads a "pride" (more lion imagery)—another name for home room that meets three times a day.

It's one of the unorthodox steps taken for a student population that requires extra attention. That's the reason for the longer school hours, the double dose of English and mandatory 20 minutes of reading daily, the assessments every six weeks, Saturday classes and summer school for those who need it.

Of the 150 teens who started in 2006, 95 lasted four years. (Another dozen were transfers.) They've become a tight-knit group.

So when Cameron Barnes' mother died last year of liver disease, he returned to school the next day, finding solace there. "It was like being with family," he says. "It's like a brotherhood."

And when it came time for his mother's funeral, the members of his "pride" stood with him.

■ ■ ■ ■

Marlon Marshall was in a bind.

His mother announced she was moving to Michigan. She was sick of the guns and killings in her neighborhood; her brother was shot and seriously wounded while sitting on their front porch.

Marlon wanted to attend Urban Prep his senior year. College, once a



In this photo taken Saturday, June 12, 2010 Urban Prep High School graduating senior Cameron Barnes, right, breaks out into tears as his crying sister Teisha kisses him during graduation ceremonies in Chicago. Throughout the ceremony both fought back tears remembering their mother who died last year of liver disease. When it came time for his mother's funeral, the members of his "pride" stood with him.

fantasy, was now achingly close. But he had no home.

Urban Prep staff huddled, and with his mother's permission, he was taken in by assistant principal Richard Glass, a Don Cheadle lookalike with an unflappable manner and a buttery voice made for radio.

After nine months under the same roof, Marlon calls Glass "godfather" or "Pops."

Glass calls Marlon "a great young man" who falls in love easily—a declaration that prompts the 18-year-old to rub his hand over his face in embarrassment.

Marlon's father, just 16 when his son was born, left when he was 3 months old. Marlon moved around a lot, living for some time with his stepfather. Always, there was danger. One place was so bad it was risky just to walk home from the bus stop at the corner.

"Living here has given me so much freedom just to be a kid," he says, sitting in Glass' spotless kitchen. "I really haven't had a childhood. I couldn't go outside. ... I knew once the sun went down that's when the problems started."

Just having a curfew (11 p.m.) was thrilling. "I can't even explain the feeling I had when we were going over the rules," Marlon says. "I need structure. I sometimes get sidetracked or a little bit lazy."

And when Marlon's grades began slipping, Glass pushed him to turn things around—and he earned a 3.0 average his senior year, his best ever.

This isn't the first time Glass—who's pursuing a doctorate in education—has gone the extra mile.

As an elementary school teacher, he'd escort groups of kids—some of whom had rarely been out of their neighborhoods—to a skating rink, an amusement park or out to dinner. "I try to treat all of my students as if they're my sons," says Glass, who, at 39, is a grandfather himself.

Marlon already has put Glass on notice—he doesn't want their friendship to end after his senior year.

"He's going to need me for some time," Glass says, "and I'm good with that."

The acceptance letters began arriving this spring.

Trinity College. The University of Illinois. Howard University. The University of Virginia. Morehouse College. Georgetown. Tuskegee University. And on and on.

Each time a student was accepted to a four-year college or university, he received a red-and-gold tie (King is a Harry Potter fan; these are Gryffindor colors) to the strains of Jay-Z's "On to the Next One."

When all 107 seniors had received letters, there was a celebration.

Marcus Bass wanted to cry—but he refrained. It had been a rocky four years, riddled with doubts, struggles in biology and an attitude adjustment.

"At first, I thought everybody was out to get me," Marcus says in a deep, barely audible voice. "I wasn't used to taking orders from anyone. I was used to just doing my own thing."

There were warnings, he says, from teachers and administrators. There were outside pressures, too.

Guys he grew up with, would say "you ain't even with us no more," Marcus says. "We kind of distance ourselves from each other now. I see them doing their own thing, or hanging in the streets, just smoking and drinking all day. I try to tell them there's something better than that. They just ... blow me off."

He's convinced Urban Prep has kept him out of trouble. "It's hard to say how they've saved my life," he says, "but they have."

In May, the Class of 2010 united for a "signing day" modeled after events held for high school athletes when they choose a college. At a steakhouse, the seniors stood one by one and announced their school, then donned a cap bearing its name.

There also were T-shirts on a table adorned with a jaunty crown and the words: "100 Percent."

But the Urban Prep story is still unfolding and King knows it.

There will be struggles ahead for the college-bound students. Some will be academic—it's unclear how many gradu-

ates now read at grade level. Others will be financial, even though the Class of 2010 will benefit from more than \$4 million in grants and scholarships.

And still others will come from simply being away from home and needing support, encouragement and practical advice.

Urban Prep is working on a plan so every college freshman will have someone in Chicago to tap for guidance when problems arise. "We don't think once you're gone, we're done with you, see you later, have a good time," King says.

And while there's "a huge feeling of accomplishment," King insists "it's just a milestone. It's not an endgame. This is not the fulfillment of our mission. [That] comes when we are able to see our students succeed in college and that may not be apparent for four or five years."

■ ■ ■ ■

On a muggy June night, King surveys the graduates, clad in black gowns with the Urban Prep crest. He tells them how proud everyone is of them.

In four years or so, he says, he'll be expecting invitations—to their college commencements.

But this is graduation night, time to reflect on how far they've come, and where they're going.

Krishnaun Branch, the kid who stopped himself from going over the edge, is heading to Fisk University in Tennessee.

He's a jumble of emotions, rattling them off in quick succession: "Happiness. Sadness. Proud. Proud of myself.



In this photo taken Saturday, June 12, 2010 Urban Prep High School graduating senior Marcus Bass celebrates with classmate Cameron Barnes after receiving his diploma Saturday, June 12, 2010 in Chicago.

Thankful. Successful."

Marcus Bass, the kid who wondered if he'd make it, grins widely with relief as he ponders a future at Jackson State University in Mississippi.

"It feels like I don't have anything to prove to anyone but now I have to prove something to myself—and that's making it through college," he says.

And Marlon Marshall, the kid who found a new anchor in life, will attend Earlham College in Indiana. "Everybody said we wasn't going to make it," he says, "but we're here and about to do

bigger and better things."

Marlon's family has gathered in a cheering section. His father—he doesn't remember when they last saw each other—is in from Mississippi, his mother, Vernita Lockett, from Michigan.

"I'm very attached to Marlon," she says. "I had him when I was 15. ... They told me my boy was going to be a statistic. They told me he was going to be another gangbanger. Well, we're here to prove them wrong."

As each graduate's name is called to receive his diploma, squeals of joy fill the auditorium.

When Cameron Barnes lopez across the stage, his long legs crossing the distance in a few strides, he touches his fingertips to his lips, looks toward the heavens, then blows a kiss—a tribute to his mother, no longer with him.

And when Marlon is called up to receive a special medal, his mother stands and shouts: "We LOVVVVVVE you!"

Later, Marlon and his dad share a tearful embrace. "You're a much better man than I ever was," Marlon Sr. says, burrowing his face in his son's chest as the two rock from side to side.

"Daddy, don't do that. ... You did what you could, man," Marlon whispers, his eyes red-rimmed, his face tearstained. "Don't blame yourself 'cause I never stopped loving you ... I never gave up on you, man. I always knew that you was trying. If anybody going to believe in you, man, it's me."

There would be another embrace before the night was out, when Marlon Sr.

thanked Richard Glass—the man who guided his son to the finish line.

■ ■ ■ ■

Tim King asks the graduates to take the stage and recite their creed one final time.

They repeat the lines, rapidly and forcefully. The last words are joyous, and emphatic.

"WE BELIEVE."

A few raise their arms in triumph.

Then they toss their mortarboards in the air, red-and-gold tassels flying as the crowd cheers.

Life & Style

In 'Salt,' Angelina Jolie is a seasoned action pro

By JOHN ANDERSON
NEWSDAY

Looking like someone a hormonal 14-year-old boy might have made on his computer, Angelina Jolie reflected quite seriously about the intersection of "Salt"—the espionage thriller that opens Friday—and the recently concluded, real-life Russian spy case.

"The citizen in me hopes it won't change anything regarding our relationship with Russia," she said of what had been an improving rapport with the former Soviet Union. "But the side of me that makes a film about this says, 'My God, what timing.' Maybe the Sony marketing department should get some kind of award."

She's kidding—we think—but the feeling around "Salt" is that the misfortune of some rag-tag Russian infiltrators is nothing but good news at the movies. After all, it took more than five years for the Kurt Wimmer-scripted project to get from page to screen—its hero morphing in the interim from "Edwin A. Salt" (the original title) to Evelyn, and the putative star from Tom Cruise to Jolie. Why? "I think in part it was because people said, 'The Russians are over,'" said producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura. "And we were like, 'Are you guys serious?'"

They were. But good timing does not necessarily make a hit movie. "Salt" will be relying on a two-front attack on the box office. There's the story, of course—Evelyn Salt, an operative for the CIA, is accused of being a long-buried Russian mole, and has to flee the virtual entirety of U.S. clandestine forces to find her hostage husband and clear her name. And there's the action, much of which Jolie performed herself, leaving her collaborators—and hopefully her audiences-to-be—in awe.

"She's fearless," said director Phillip Noyce. "There's no resistance. Her only resistance is to the concept of there being no ideas."

Jolie has certainly seen her share of action—"Wanted" and the "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" films are all motion, all the time. She's also done her share of dramas—"Changeling" and "A Mighty Heart" among them.

"This is the first time I've been able to really combine them," she said. "The first time I've been able to do an action movie based in reality and have a real depth of back story and play with characters and accents and voices. And also just jump off things."

Among the things she jumps off are moving trucks, onto other moving trucks—on adjoining freeway ramps. Or climbing out on 11-story win-

dow ledges. Part of the viewer's mind may write it all off to cranes and cables (erased later, via computer), but there's still a certain visceral thrill, especially when the star is really doing it.

"I was surprised at how much she was willing to do," Noyce said. "But I was thankful, because it gives an extra reality to those sequences—which is something we're starting to lose in the movies, the old-fashioned idea that someone is actually at risk when they do a stunt."

Luckily, given the recent focus on real-life espionage, "Salt" is also rooted in procedural reality. Melissa Mahle, a former CIA agent, consulted on the film. While instructing its various departments on protocol and ambience, she kept in mind some adjoining realities. "Espionage is chess," she said. "And chess makes boring film."

But detail also can make the difference between a rote thriller and a classic. Noyce said he was inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious" and "North by Northwest," as well as Paul Greengrass' two "Bourne" films, as notable for character development and procedure as car chases and fistfights. To that end, Mahle said, Jolie "sucked my brain dry" harvesting information about life in the CIA.

"A big part of it was just meeting her," Jolie said. "You think you're going to play this tough CIA girl and wonder what she's going to look like, what's she going to feel like, be like; and then you meet her, and she's so lovely, and she's so elegant and counters any stereotype of some obviously tough woman."

What affected Jolie most was learning how one's personal life is constrained when one lives under cover. "We had long talks about the inability of an agent to talk to anybody in your family about what your daily life was," Jolie said. "And what your job was, and how isolating that was, and how lonely that was, and only when you're retired are you allowed to really discuss your life and what



Cast member Angelina Jolie arrives at the premiere of "Salt" in Los Angeles, on Monday, July 19, 2010.

AP

a huge relief that is. The idea that it would take 20 years to have a real conversation with your husband over dinner ... it's a tremendous sacrifice, and it calls for a very specific personality. So I drew mostly from that."

She wasn't alone. Liev Schreiber—who plays Jolie's CIA colleague and eventual pursuer Ted Winter—got to meet outed CIA agent Valerie Plame, who is being played in the upcoming "Fair Game" by Schreiber's domestic partner, Naomi Watts. "What I got from her," he said of Plame, "is that what a good operative does is they stay in the moment."

Which is actor speak, and reveals the obvious attraction for the performers in "Salt"—espionage is all about acting. For one, there might be an Oscar; for another, perhaps, deportation.

For the movie? Well, if it doesn't work, you can't blame current events. "The Russians made great enemies," di Bonaventura said. "And we've been missing them."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Grumman makes a comeback

When "Salt" audiences trip vicariously through the crypt of St. Bartholomew's Church on Manhattan's Park Avenue, or around the Washington apartment of its CIA agent heroine, or in the belly of a boat full of nasty Russians moored off Staten Island, what they'll really be seeing is Bethpage on New York's Long Island, and the re-created interiors of the old Grumman plant.

"It was an interesting experience," said "Salt" producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura. "I think maybe one movie had tried to use Grumman before."

"But we were the ones who spent the money converting the place," said director Philip Noyce. "We spent a million bucks converting it into a movie studio." What was the Australian director most impressed by? "It's where the moon-landing module was built," he said, still impressed. "You walk in there and, whoa, it's just like a movie studio."

For all its loveliness, Bethpage was the beneficiary of larger issues afoot. "The reason we were there was not by choice," Noyce said. "It's because the New York State subsidy has been so successful in attracting Hollywood productions that there was no space in Manhattan or the five boroughs. We had to go out."

"It's a little bit of a hassle because of the traffic," di Bonaventura said. "It's an hour, rough and tough, back and forth, two and a half with bad traffic; 45 minutes if you're leaving at 4 in the morning. But the town itself was incredible, and Nassau County really made every effort to make it an attractive place for us. They went to merchants and said, 'Would you give them 10 percent discounts?' etc., and they worked to make it better for us to go there. They were smart."

LYNWOOD, California (AP)—Inside a nondescript two-story building next to a busy freeway in an industrial neighborhood far removed from Hollywood is where Lindsay Lohan will likely spend several weeks as part of her punishment for violating her drunken driving probation.

Lohan is slated to begin her sentence Tuesday at the bleak, 16-year-old Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood, California, just south of downtown Los Angeles. The actress would be housed in the 2,200-

bed facility's special needs unit, where she would live in isolation for her own safety.

Thanks to jail overcrowding and a state program that credits inmates

for good behavior, nonviolent female misdemeanor offenders such as Lohan typically serve only about 25 percent of their sentences, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

spokesman Steve Whitmore.

That means Lohan's 90-day sentence could be reduced to about three weeks and she could be out of jail in time for the premiere of "Machete,"

the action-thriller opening Sept. 3 that stars Lohan as a nun.

It won't be Lohan's first time inside the lockup, which has served as Los Angeles County's only all-female jail

since 2006. The actress spent about 84 minutes there in 2007 for a drunken driving offense, reduced from her already trimmed daylong sentence because of the overpopulation issue.

She was searched, fingerprinted and placed in a holding cell but allowed to keep wearing her street clothes.

This time, with a much longer sentence, the 24-year-old "Mean Girls" and

"Georgia Rule" star will most certainly have to trade her designer clothes for a jail-issued orange jumpsuit. Lohan will also be asked to arrive empty-handed and must surrender any jewelry.

Besides the jumpsuit, Lohan will also be given a set of simple toiletries that all inmates receive: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, deodorant, shampoo and shaving implements. Paris Hilton received one for her own secluded 23-day stay in 2007 for reckless driving charges, according to Whitmore.

Lindsay Lohan faces Paris Hilton treatment in jail

Bullock renews restraining order against stalker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sandra Bullock obtained a temporary restraining order Monday against a 41-year-old man accused of stalking the Oscar-winning actress since 2003.

Bullock's attorney obtained the protective order on her behalf against Thomas James Weldon, who has been the subject of previous court orders to stay away from the 45-year-old actress.

A hearing for a three-year order against Weldon was scheduled for Aug. 6.

Bullock first obtained a restraining order in California against Weldon in 2003, but that order expired in 2009. He voluntarily entered a mental institution in Tennessee, and the actress sued the state in 2006 to require them to notify her of his release.

According to the court filing, Weldon turned up in a Wyoming emergency room last month complaining of anxiety and sleeplessness. He later told hospital staff that he had driven from Tennessee in an attempt to meet Bullock at her home in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Declarations from a doctor who interviewed Weldon in Wyoming said that Weldon believes he has communicated with Bullock telepathically. He told doctors that he has not been taking his medications. "His preoccupation with Ms. Bullock is obvious," Dr. Jiri Danczik, a psychiatrist, wrote in a sworn declaration.

It is unclear when Weldon was released from the mental institution in Tennessee.



AP
In this March 7, 2010 file photo, Sandra Bullock arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

Bullock's attorney, Ed McPherson, filed a declaration stating that Weldon has sent the actress numerous e-mails and faxes in recent years.

The actress' previous court filings have accused Weldon of repeatedly trying to contact Bullock and traveling around the country in an attempt to meet her. Bullock has never met Weldon, the court filing said.

The restraining order seeks to block Weldon from trying to contact Bullock at any of her homes and any of her movie sets. It also seeks to protect her 7-month-old Louis Bardo Bullock, whom the actress is in the process of adopting.

Bullock recently finalized her divorce from biker businessman Jesse James.

Sex and drug education is needed now more than ever

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEARABBY: When I was a young teen, my mother gave me a copy of your booklet "What Every Teen Should Know." She left it on my bed for me to read at my own pace, and let me know that I could come to her if I had any questions, when I was ready to ask them.



Dear Abby

For years that booklet served as a reference guide for me. I also lent it to many of my friends whose parents were not so forthcoming with this important information. Being informed and not believing urban myths made a big difference in our decisions—and we're all doing well now.

A decade later, I often work with teens who have received no comprehensive education about sex, drugs, or the impact of decisions they make during adolescence. Your booklet remains an important tool in these kids' educations. I write to encourage all parents, grandparents and relatives of teens to keep a copy of this booklet handy—and to thank those who have already done so.

KRISTEN WOYTONIK, DOVER, N.H.

DEAR KRISTEN: Thank you for your endorsement of my teen booklet. I am pleased that you continue to find it useful. Today many young people engage in adult activities at a much earlier age than the teenagers of previous generations. That's why it is so important for parents to take the initiative and discuss alcohol, drugs, sex and FAMILY VALUES with their children well before nature takes over and they start experimenting.

My teen booklet contains answers to commonly asked questions such as: How old must a girl be before she can get pregnant? Can a girl get pregnant the first time she has sex? What time of the month is a girl 100 percent safe? How old must a boy be before he can father a child?

Another important topic covered is HOW TO AVOID DATE RAPE AND WHAT TO DO IF IT HAPPENS. To order "What Every Teen Should Know," send your name and address, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

My teen booklet also contains information on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases and how to recognize them. It has been distributed in doctors' offices and used to promote discussion by educators and religious leaders, and is often used by parents who find it difficult to discuss sex with their children.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My niece is being married—again. This will be No. 5. What kind of gift would you suggest? I am out of ideas, as I'm thinking she already has everything. The wedding is in a few months. Help!

STUMPED IN RENO

DEAR STUMPED: After the second—or third—wedding, one would think the marriage would be a quiet, low-key affair. And because you have already given her four wedding gifts, what you should send her is your good wishes for a long and successful marriage.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Zsa Zsa Gabor recovering from hip surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband thinks she'll be watching "Jeopardy" again in no time. Prince Frederic von Anhalt, the 93-year-old actress' eccentric husband, told a throng of reporters gathered outside their Bel-Air home Monday that Gabor underwent successful surgery to replace her right hip, which she broke over the weekend while watching



Gabor

her favorite game show.

He said she tumbled to the floor when she tried to answer the phone.

"It's just bad luck," von Anhalt said. "It could happen to anyone."

Gabor, who has to use a wheelchair after being partially paralyzed in a 2002 car accident, was in surgery for 3 1/2 hours at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, according to von Anhalt.

He said she remained heavily sedated but in good spirits Monday and would likely be recuperating in the hospital for four or five days before returning home.

The 65-year-old socialite entered California governor's race as an independent in the primary but has not yet filed to run in the general election. His platform includes legalizing marijuana and prostitution and lifting the ban on Cuban cigars, then taxing them all. He said he would hold off on his campaign if Gabor's

condition does not improve.

"If my wife doesn't recover the way I would like to see it, he said, "then I will skip it."

His 1986 marriage to Gabor was his seventh and her ninth. Before von Anhalt met her, he worked as a bank clerk, screenwriter and sauna manager, acquiring his royal title along the way. After his parents died, he said he was adopted by a German princess who gave him the title of Prince Frederic von Anhalt of Munich, the Duke of Saxony.

Amplified edition of Ken Follett novel released

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest in the new, electronic world of book publishing: The Amplified Edition.

Penguin Group (USA) and Starz Entertainment have collaborated on an Amplified version of Ken Follett's blockbuster "The Pillars of the Earth," featuring video and audio clips.

The e-release, available Tuesday on Apple's iPad and later this week on the iPhone and iPod, is timed to Starz's 8-part, 8-hour miniseries based on Follett's historical epic.

The first episode airs Friday, with seven more installments following throughout the summer.

The Penguin-Starz project combines the full text of the book with extensive excerpts from the TV production, added weekly as the miniseries progresses. Also included are interviews with the author, sketches of the set, selections from the soundtrack and a family tree that offers background on the various characters and videos of the actors discussing their roles.

"The Amplified Edition offers a truly integrated multimedia experience of Ken Follett's imagined story," said Molly Barton, Penguin's director of business development. "The Amplified Edition brings you the imagery, architecture, music and clothing from the time period while also offering readers the chance to explore the process Ken Follett went through with (miniseries producer) Ridley Scott to bring his story to life on screen."

Penguin and numerous other

publishers have created multimedia projects in recent years as they seek to find new and bigger audiences online. An Emeryville, California-based company, Vook, has created video books, combining text and film clips, out of everything from fitness guides to a collection of stories by Franz Kafka.

Penguin is planning other Amplified works, fiction and nonfiction, but Barton declined to cite anything specific.

his May 28 death. She is seeking the declaration as part of the ongoing battle over Coleman's estate. The 42-year-old Coleman died after suffering a brain hemorrhage. Multiple wills address the estate, although a note handwritten by Coleman days after his 2007 marriage names Price his sole heir. Coleman's ex-girlfriend, Anna Gray, contends a 2005 document awards her the estate.

Audiobooks of 4 Woody Allen works set for release

NEW YORK (AP)—Woody Allen has gone audio. The Academy Award-winning filmmaker and writer has recorded audio editions of four of his books, compilations of the comic stories and essays he has published in The New Yorker and elsewhere. They include "Mere Anarchy," "Getting Even" and "Side Effects." The audiobooks are being released Tuesday by the digital audio producer and provider Audible.com, a subsidiary of Amazon.com. They will initially be available exclusively through the Audible website. They

can be purchased individually for \$12.95, or together—including an exclusive, one-hour interview with Allen—for \$34.95. Allen's film, "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger," will arrive in theaters this fall.

Latin Grammy-winner in Cancun hit-and-run

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Latin Grammy-winner Ana Barbara is under investigation in a hit-and-run in Cancun that left a 79-year-old woman dead. Authorities in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, where the tourist resort is located, initially arrested the singer's bodyguard. But the victim's family alleges that it was Ana Barbara who was driving—and likely speeding—when the vehicle hit the woman Sunday. The bodyguard, Jose Gomez, was released Monday after posting bail. Ana Barbara denied she was driving. She told the Televisa television network that she heard a noise then saw the victim on the ground. Ana Barbara won a Latin Grammy in 2005 in the category of best album for "Loca de Amar."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Natalie Cole memoir due out in November

NEW YORK (AP)—Natalie Cole has a comeback story. The Grammy Award-winning singer is working on a memoir about her successful kidney transplant last year and about the death of her sister Cookie on the very day Natalie had her operation. Cole also will share memories of her father, crooner Nat "King" Cole. Publisher Simon & Schuster announced Monday that the book, "Love Brought Me Back," will come out in November. Cole is collaborating with David Ritz, who helped with memoirs by Ray Charles and Marvin Gaye.

Broadway comes to the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Broadway has come to the White House for a night. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama hosted Broadway performers Monday for an evening of show tunes. It was the latest installment of an ongoing music series that has previously featured classical, jazz and other genres. The

night opened with Tony Award-winner Elaine Stritch singing "Broadway Baby." Nathan Lane hosted. He joked that theatergoing hasn't been popular for presidents since Abraham Lincoln, but noted that the Obamas enjoy a night at the show. Obama spoke beforehand, praising Broadway music as a "truly American art form." The president said that whether they like to admit it, everyone has the lyrics of a few Broadway shows stuck in their head.

Coleman's ex wants common law marriage recognized

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Gary Coleman's ex-wife is asking a judge to formally recognize her as the child star's surviving spouse. Documents filed last week in 4th District Court on behalf of Shannon Price say she and Coleman continued to live together and represent themselves as married despite their 2008 divorce. Price wants a judge to recognize her common law marriage to Coleman from the date of the divorce through

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

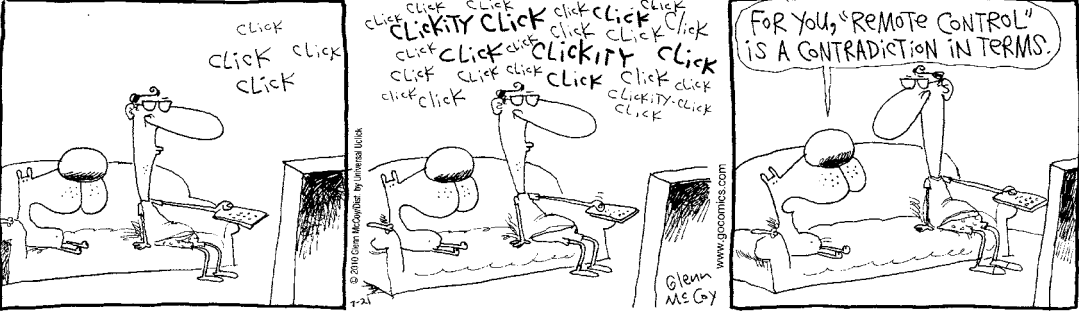
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Iodine-rich seaweed
5 Apple computer
8 Muscat's land
12 Enrages
13 Blond shade
14 Ill temper
15 Participate in a lake sport
17 — gin fizz
18 Debate topics
19 Cheated at hide-and-seek
21 Conk out
22 Reddish-brown gem
23 List-ending abbr.
26 Gist
28 Palatal pendant
31 So
33 In medias —
35 Tend texts

DOWN

1 New Zealand-er
2 Geological times
3 Reply to
4 Pretender
5 Rubber?
6 Request
7 TV police oldie
8 Watch
9 Spherical chocolate candies
10 Lotion additive
11 Require
16 Check
20 Water (French)
23 Biblical verb suffix
24 —
25 Appealing pastime
27 Foundation
29 Whopper
30 Noshed on
32 Leads astray
34 Siesta shawls
37 "May-day!"
39 Tranquil
42 Settle a debt
44 Erstwhile planet
45 Annoys
46 Zilch
48 —
49 Yahtzee quintet
50 Reverberate
53 Raw rock

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
			21				22			
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
			41			42		43		44
45	46					47			48	49
51					52	53				
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Hartnett, 32; Charlotte Gainsbourg, 39; Jon Lovitz, 53; Robin Williams, 59

Happy Birthday: Be prepared to make unusual choices that will mold your future in a way you least expect. The time for change—like it or not—is now. Socializing and discovering what's available will broaden your outlook and help you realize what you can and want to have in your life. This can be an exciting time, if you embrace it. Your numbers are 4, 12, 24, 26, 30, 33, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take advantage of anything and everything that is going your way. You can add to your skills, which will pay off when asked to do something you regarded as impossible in the past. Don't let the uncertainty you face hold you back. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ask others for help to expand your horizons and reach your goals. Travel will lead to information and interaction with people with whom you can collaborate to accomplish something extraordinary. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Push and pull situations will lead to disaster. You have to keep an even balance when dealing with others. Fairness will be the key to getting things done and taking care of professional and personal business. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do things that will help your emotional well-being. Home improvements will pay off mentally, physically and financially. Do much of the work yourself and you will feel proud of your accomplishments. A partnership is in the stars. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel, intrigue and an interesting turn of events are heading your way. Take on a new challenge and face whatever comes your way, knowing you have what it takes to come out on top. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Double-check everything you do and what others do for you. You cannot assume that anything is going to be perfect, unless you give it your undivided attention. There is money to be made and household changes that will improve your surroundings and increase your assets. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A partnership can lead to greater opportunities, as long as you lay down the ground rules before you make a commitment. Don't give up too much because you are emotionally vulnerable. Mixing personal and professional interest will be difficult. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more organized you are, the easier it will be to plan for the future. Last-minute social invitations may not be easy for you to attend. However, it's a must in terms of the people you will meet and the knowledge you will gather. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let someone else's responsibilities put a hold on the things you want to do to improve your surroundings or your personal life. Uncertainty regarding love may surface if you cannot find a way to resolve your differences. Maintain upfront and open communication. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You don't need someone confusing your life or your decisions. Go it alone, especially if it is a financial venture. You have to be ready to act when the time is right if you are going to get ahead. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can expect to face some deception when dealing with partners. You should be considering ways to utilize your talents more efficiently. Things aren't likely to pan out if you are working in conjunction with someone, unless you got promises in writing. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional upset will surface and disagreements with partners will lead to a delay in your plans. Don't get angry, even if you are disappointed. Meddling or using emotional tactics to get others to bend to your wishes will backfire. ★★

Birthday Baby: You embrace new adventures and welcome challenges. You are enterprising and confident, with a great imagination.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

						7	5			
					7	9	3	8		
				8	3	4		1		
				3	9		5	1	7	
			9	5						
5	2	3								
7		8	4							
3			2							
2	1	6	8							

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	5	2	4	6	7	3	1
2	1	3	7	8	5	4	6	9
4	7	6	1	3	9	8	2	5
1	5	9	3	2	7	6	4	8
3	8	2	9	6	4	5	1	7
6	4	7	8	5	1	2	9	3
5	2	1	6	9	8	3	7	4
7	3	8	4	1	2	9	5	6
9	6	4	5	7	3	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/21

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STUDY GROUPS Solution: 6 letters

R	S	E	I	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	T	L
E	E	N	O	I	T	A	V	I	T	O	M	S	S	E
T	S	V	D	C	N	E	T	S	I	L	I	P	U	N
S	G	M	I	A	M	A	E	T	W	T	P	A	R	A
E	N	R	S	S	E	R	U	E	N	R	S	P	T	P
M	I	O	K	E	E	L	A	E	E	C	L	E	N	R
E	D	F	I	S	O	K	I	S	V	E	O	R	E	E
S	N	S	L	S	N	C	E	C	A	O	O	V	D	P
T	I	E	L	E	S	N	O	N	I	T	T	N	E	A
S	F	U	S	T	T	U	A	U	U	L	E	E	S	R
I	P	S	A	A	R	L	C	T	R	P	B	T	C	E
S	E	S	T	E	Y	O	R	S	E	S	B	U	O	K
S	K	I	D	Z	S	A	E	D	I	U	E	T	P	R
A	O	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	O	D	U	T	Y	O
N	O	I	N	U	E	R	S	D	N	E	K	E	E	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Calculate
SALE: The topics of Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick, include \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 path for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64108 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6489.

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, CIVIL
Plaintiff, ACTION
NO. 09-0481
vs. AMENDED
NOTICE
OF SALE
ALBERT U. CHARFAUROS and **FRANCISCA C. CHARFAUROS,**
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that,
pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order,
dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior
Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U.
Charfauros and Francisca C. Charfauros'
interests in Lot 001, G 151, located in
Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public
auction to the highest bidder, on terms and
conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale
will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010, at
the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices
of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza,
Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will
be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property
is described as Lot 001 G 151,
as more particularly described on
Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04,
the original of which was recorded 27
MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511
at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.
Failure to inspect the property or any
portion thereof will not constitute the basis
for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of
the auction sale. Information concerning
the property can be obtained by contacting
Emma Fabre of the O'Connor Berman
Dotts & Banes at Tel. No. 234-5684.

Warranties and Covenants. The property
listed for sale in this Notice will be sold
in its current condition. The sale will be
held without any warranties or covenants
whatsoever, whether express or implied,
including but not limited to warranties of
title. Neither the undersigned nor the
Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant
express or implied for the property
listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the
undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable
for the quality of the property listed for sale
in this Notice, or any fault or defect in the
description thereof. Buyers shall not be
entitled to rescission, damages, or any
remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.**
Consistent with the laws of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands governing auction sales, the
undersigned shall have the following rights
and duties in conducting the auction sale:
1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in
this Notice before sale or before a bid for
such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn
the sale without notice at any time before
the property is struck off, without incurring
any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to
reject any or all bids for any reason.
B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance.
The highest of such bids will automatically
be considered the opening bid. Advance
bids may be submitted only in writing,
signed by the bidder, and delivered to the
office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes.
The bidder assumes all risk. Any person,
including the Plaintiff, may bid in person
at the auction sale, whether or not such person
has submitted an advance bid.
C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall
pay the purchase price to the undersigned
immediately after the sale is consummated.
D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The
undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the
right to change any of the terms hereof by
announcement, written or oral, made before
the auction sale or at the commencement
thereof and such change or changes, by
virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all
bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 28th of June, 2010.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

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go shopping!"

"My wish is to celebrate my
Sweet 16th birthday with
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Cardinals power burst sinks Phillies



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Albert Pujols' two-run homer in the fifth

inning began a barrage of four long balls in a span of six at-bats as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-4 in the National League on Monday.

Pujols hit his 22nd homer and first since the All-Star break for a 5-4 lead. Pujols also doubled and had a run-scoring groundout.

Rookie Allen Craig added his first career homer and Skip Schumaker also went long in a five-run fifth. Randy Winn then led off the sixth with a homer. The four-homer game tied a season best for the NL Central leaders, who have won a season-high six straight and are a season-best 11 games over .500 (52-41).

St. Louis' Blake Hawksworth (4-5) survived a rocky start to take the win while Phillies starter Kyle Kendrick (5-4) surrendered seven runs in five innings, coughing up a 4-2 lead.

Giants 5, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Nate Schierholtz hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning for San Francisco, keeping Los Angeles winless since the All-Star break.

The Giants' 10th win in their past 12 games moved them past Colorado into second place in the NL West.

The Dodgers have lost five straight since the break. They dominated the Giants in the first half, winning five of six, including a three-game sweep last month in San Francisco.

San Francisco starter Madison Bumgarner (3-2) allowed two runs in 5 2-3 innings. Los Angeles loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth but Brian Wilson struck out Casey Blake to end it.

The Dodgers recalled James McDonald (0-1) from the minors to make his first appearance this season. He gave up four runs in five innings.

Marlins 9, Rockies 8

In Miami, pinch-hitter Donnie Murphy hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Florida over Colorado.

It was the fifth lead change in the game. Colorado starter Ubaldo Jimenez departed after 5 1-3 innings—his shortest outing of the season—having given up six runs and with his team trailing. But Jonathan Herrera hit his first career homer to put the Rockies ahead 8-7 in the eighth inning.

Rockies closer Huston Street (1-2) retired the first two batters in the ninth but Dan Uggla walked and Murphy—batting for only the fourth time this season—homered for the winner.

Florida's Jhan Marínez (1-0) earned his first major league win.

Reds 7, Nationals 2

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto pitched six innings around a rain delay and drove home two runs to lead Cincinnati over Washington.

Cueto (9-2) had a two-run single and Jonny Gomes and Miguel Cairo added solo homers.

Washington's J.D. Martin (1-5) walked three in the second. Drew Stubbs had a two-run double, and Cueto followed with his first RBIs of the season.

Over his past six starts, Cueto has a 1.16 ERA.

Diamondbacks 13, Mets 2

In Phoenix, New York starter Mike Pel-



AP
St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols (5) celebrates with teammates in the dugout after hitting a two-run home run in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Monday, July 19, 2010 in St. Louis.

frey lasted only 1 1-3 innings as Arizona turned on the power.

Pelfrey (10-5) threw 74 pitches, 51 in the first inning, in the shortest outing of his career. He allowed six runs. After a strong start to the season, he is 1-4 with 9.11 ERA in his past six starts. Pelfrey is 0-5 in six career starts against the Diamondbacks.

Mark Reynolds drove in four runs with a triple and his 21st home run as Arizona amassed a season-high 18 hits.

Dbacks starter Ian Kennedy (5-7) gave up one run through five innings.

Astros 11, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Jason Castro hit a three-run homer and Carlos Lee had a two-run

double in Houston's five-run first inning that set up a big win over Chicago.

Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez (7-11) gave up five runs in six innings but earned the win as Houston had a season-high 11 runs and 17 hits.

Carlos Silva's slide continued after a good start to the season. The Chicago starter was tagged for five runs in one inning. In his past two starts, Silva (9-4) he has allowed 11 runs over 2 1-3 innings.

The Cubs, who are 15-26 against NL Central divisional opponents.

Brewers 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Prince Fielder and Rickie Weeks hit home runs for the second consecutive game for Milwaukee, overcom-

ing Pittsburgh.

Weeks homered for the third time in two days to extend his club record for homers by a second baseman to 18. Fielder took over sole possession of the NL home run lead with his 23rd.

Milwaukee's Chris Capuano (1-1) won for the first time in more than three years. He ended a franchise record 13-game losing streak, allowing one run and only one walk in five innings. Capuano missed the past two seasons recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Milwaukee won despite only three hits and four baserunners.

Pittsburgh starter Jeff Karstens (2-5) only allowed three baserunners during his six innings—but all of them scored.

Rangers 8, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Nelson Cruz's two-run homer in the 14th inning gave the Texas Rangers a win over the Detroit Tigers.

The Tigers lost their sixth straight game despite two home runs from Miguel Cabrera, while the Rangers won for the first time in 12 attempts in Detroit.

The game had a scary moment in the sixth inning when Rangers reliever Dustin Nippert was hit in the head by Austin Jackson's line drive. The ball landed in left field for a double as Texas players and staff raced toward the mound. Nippert quickly sat up and walked off the field under his own power.

Detroit lost third baseman Brandon Inge for 4-6 weeks with a broken hand when he was hit by a pitch from Scott Feldman in the third.

Texas' Matt Harrison (2-1) got out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the bottom of the 11th.

Cruz finally ended it with a shot just inside the right-field pole off Enrique Gonzalez (0-1).

Red Sox 2, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning as Boston edged Oakland.

Matsuzaka (7-3) has won consecutive starts after going more than a month without a win.

Adrian Beltre homered in the fourth inning as the Red Sox got off to a strong start on their 10-game West Coast road trip.

Oakland starter Ben Sheets (4-9) put together another solid outing, allowing two runs in 6 2-3 innings but the A's five-game winning streak was ended.

Boston's Jonathan Papelbon pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 24 opportunities.

Indians 10, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Trevor Crowe drove in two runs and had a career-high four hits among Cleveland's season-high 20 as the Indians beat Minnesota.

Crowe and Jason Donald both drove in two runs to help the Indians start the second half of the season 5-0 for the first time in history.

Minnesota starter Scott Baker (7-9) surrendered 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Cleveland's Aaron Laffey (2-3) too the win for a revived Indians outfit that was coming off a four-game sweep of Detroit.

Royals 5, Blue Jays 4, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Alberto Callaspo's RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning helped Kansas City edge Toronto and snap a six-game losing streak.

Toronto had taken a 5-4 lead in the top of the inning when Fred Lewis scored on Jose Bautista's single off Kyle Farnsworth (3-0).

Scott Podsednik led off the bottom of the 10th with a triple and scored on Jason Kendall's sacrifice fly to tie it.

Blue Jays closer Kevin Gregg (0-4) suffered his third blown save in 25 opportunities. With two outs, he walked Billy Butler and Jose Guillen, then Callaspo singled up the middle to win it.

White Sox 6, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Alex Rios hit a go-ahead, two-run homer and had three RBIs as Chicago beat Seattle to rebound from perhaps their toughest defeat of the season.

The White Sox blew a three-run lead in ninth inning of a 7-6 loss at Minnesota on Sunday to suffer their third straight loss.

Chicago starter Daniel Hudson (1-0) struck out a career-high six while allowing one run in 6 2-3 innings, as the White Sox increased their lead in the AL Central to a season-high 2½ games over Detroit and Minnesota.

The Mariners fell to 21 games under .500 (36-57), equaling their season low.

With the game tied 1-1 and one on, Rios hit homered off David Pauley (0-2). It was his 16th of the season and the 100th of his seven-year career. Pauley allowed eight hits in six innings.

Rays 8, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, rookie pitcher Wade Davis allowed one run over eight innings in another sparkling performance, steering Tampa Bay to a comfortable win over Baltimore.

Davis (7-9) walked only one. He is 9-11 in his brief big-league career, but in three starts against Baltimore he's 3-0 with an 0.75 ERA.

Evan Longoria had two hits during a seven-run third inning for Tampa Bay, which is 4-0 against the Orioles at Camden Yards and 6-1 overall. The Rays have the best road record in the majors (30-16).

The Orioles, who have lost four straight—the last two by a combined 18-2 score. Baltimore starter Chris Tillman (1-4) surrendered eight runs and four walks in 2 2-3 innings, and also hit a batter.

WTA Tour: Serena questionable for US Open

By STEVEN WINE
AP SPORTS WRITER



Serena Williams is questionable for the U.S. Open because of her recent foot injury, according to the WTA Tour.

Williams cut her right foot on broken glass at a restaurant shortly after winning Wimbledon. The tour said last week she needed surgery and would miss three tournaments leading up to the Open.

On Monday, tour spokesman Andrew Walker said Williams is questionable for the final Grand Slam of the year. Williams' return to the Open has been widely anticipated because of her tumultuous semifinal loss there last year, when she threw a tirade at a line judge at the end of a match against Kim Clijsters and was

fined a record \$82,500.

Because of the injury, Williams is missing the entire World Team Tennis season with the Washington Kastles. Her team said she cut the bottom of her foot and needed stitches.

"Hey guys I'm doing better," Williams tweeted Monday. "Thanks for all the love."

On Sunday night she tweeted: "can't wait to get out of bed & back on the courts & do what i do best!"

Ranked No. 1, Williams won her fourth Wimbledon crown and 13th major title July 3. The injury occurred shortly thereafter in Europe and at first was not believed to be serious.

After hurting her foot, Williams played in an exhibition in Brussels on July 8 against Clijsters before a world-record tennis crowd of 35,681.

Williams attended a WTT match the next night in Glen Falls, N.Y., and did not play but briefly discussed her injury with reporters. When asked how

she was able to play against Clijsters, Williams said, "Those Belgian doctors and waffles."

Clijsters said she knew before the exhibition that Williams was hurt pretty seriously.

"I saw her before we started but she didn't go into how it happened," Clijsters said. "I told her how much I admired her for coming out there. A lot of players in her situation wouldn't have done it."

Williams subsequently withdrew from upcoming tournaments in Istanbul, Cincinnati and Montreal. The last of those, at Montreal, begins Aug. 16, and the U.S. Open starts Aug. 30.

"You want the best players to be out there, especially at the U.S. Open," Clijsters said. "It would be sad not to have Serena there."

After winning the Australian Open at the end of January, Williams was sidelined through April because of an injured left knee.

Angry tour rivals closer than ever



Andy Schleck of Luxembourg strains as he sprints towards the finish line during the 15th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 187.5 kilometers (116.5 miles) with start in Pamiers and finish in Bagnères-de-Luchon, Pyrenees region, France, Monday, July 19, 2010.



BAGNERES-DE-LUCHON, France (AP) — Andy Schleck is furious and Alberto Contador has the yellow jersey as the two race leaders prepare for their most grueling day of the Tour de France so far.

Schleck lost his overall race lead to Contador by eight seconds on Monday after he was hampered by a mechanical problem. He accused the Spaniard of taking advantage of his difficulties instead of waiting as per traditional race etiquette; Contador insisted he hadn't seen that the Luxembourg rider had a problem.

Whatever the truth, both know that incident probably won't make the difference between victory and defeat for either rider. Tuesday's 16th stage, on the other hand, gives them the chance to do something that could actually be decisive.

The 199.5-kilometer (124-mile) stage from Bagnères-de-Luchon to Pau is the hardest the riders have yet faced. It includes such legendary Tour climbs as the first-category Col de Peyresourde and Col d'Aspin, as well as two mountains that are so difficult they aren't even given a category.

The Col d'Aubisque isn't too steep, but it's extremely long—29.2 kilometers (18.1 miles) of climbing—while the legendary Col du Tourmalet averages a gradient of 7.3 percent over

its 17.1 kilometers (10.6 miles), with some sections topping 10 percent.

Schleck has promised to take his revenge, and he has just two more chances in the mountains to get away from Contador and pick up some real time. He knows he will need a big lead if he is to hold on during the time-trial in Saturday's penultimate stage—Contador is the superior time-trialer.

"I've got fire in my belly," Schleck said. "The race is not finished, and I will take my revenge in the next days."

After collecting the yellow jersey, Contador stressed that nothing was yet decided.

"To lose 30 seconds or to gain 30 seconds at this point won't change the

race," he said.

"I understand that he is disappointed for what happened today, but ... for me it doesn't change anything. The goal is still Paris."

After Tuesday there will be one final Pyrenees stage on Thursday, climbing the Col du Tourmalet from the other direction and finishing at the summit. The Tour ends in the French capital on Sunday.

The controversy over Schleck and Contador overshadowed Monday's

stage victory, which was taken by French national champion Thomas Voeckler, who crossed the line in his tricolor jersey celebrating with the spectators.

This has been an unusually successful Tour for the home crowd, who haven't seen a French overall winner since Bernard Hinault took the last of his five victories in 1985. Voeckler's victory is the fifth French stage win. However, the best Frenchman in the overall standings is 19th-placed John Gadret.

Lance Armstrong's lawyer: 'Stop leaks'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong's attorney sent a letter to the federal prosecutor investigating the seven-time Tour de France winner and his associates for possible fraud and doping violations, complaining about leaks to the media.

Monday's letter from Tim Herman to Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Miller in Los Angeles says it's "especially unfair to subject Mr. Armstrong to this continuing media blitz when he is in the middle of his final Tour de France."

A copy of the letter was obtained by The Associated Press.

The letter also said Armstrong's attorneys talked to Miller about the leaks less than two weeks ago and are "extremely frustrated that these leaks have intensified."

An e-mail message left for Miller was not immediately returned Monday.

Armstrong has denied allegations of doping.

The investigation was spurred by accusations from Floyd Landis, one of Armstrong's former teammates on the US Postal team, in a series of e-mails sent to cycling and doping officials this spring.

Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour title for doping, said the use of banned substances was common on the team. Armstrong has denied those

allegations and has questioned Landis' credibility.

The New York Times reported that authorities have issued grand jury subpoenas. According to the New York Daily News, one of those went to American cyclist Greg LeMond, a three-time Tour winner who has feuded with Armstrong for several years.

"This appears to be a full-blown and largely unmonitored exploration of Floyd Landis' patently unreliable and routinely changing accusations of possible improper conduct in the professional cycling industry at large," Herman wrote.

"In fact, the 'investigation' has recently erupted into a forum for disgruntled Lance haters to bash Armstrong and try to settle old scores."

The letter notes that after seeing some of the leaks in the media, Herman requested a meeting with Miller but that the prosecutor refused to discuss investigation theories or general topics.

"It is egregiously unfair and frustrating for New York reporters to have far more knowledge about this matter than Mr. Armstrong or his attorney," Herman wrote.

Armstrong was in 31st place Monday in what he has said will be his last Tour de France, 40 minutes, 31 seconds behind leader Alberto Contador of Spain.

Wade apologizes for reference to 'World Trade'

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade issued an apology Monday to those who may have been offended by his use of the phrase "World Trade" while answering a question about the upcoming Miami Heat season.

The All-Star guard made the remark Sunday before the annual charity basketball game he co-hosts with Alonzo Mourning.

Standing at his locker before a group of reporters, Wade said:

"There's going to be times when we might lose one, two games in a row, maybe two games, three games in a row, you never know. It's going to seem like the world is crashed down. You all are going to make it seem like the World Trade has just went down again. But it's not going to be nothing but a couple basketball games lost and we'll have to get back on track."

On Monday, before leaving on a flight to Los Angeles for some television appearances—he was previously booked to talk with Jay Leno—Wade issued an apology through the Heat.

In the statement, Wade said: "In an interview yesterday, I attempted to explain how some people may view the Miami Heat losing a few basketball games in a row during the upcoming season. It appears that my reference to the World Trade Center has been either inaccurately

reported or taken completely out of context. I was simply trying to say that losing a few basketball games should not be compared to a real catastrophe.

"While it was certainly not my intention, I sincerely apologize to anyone who found my reference to the World Trade Center to be insensitive or offensive."

AOL Fanhouse initially reported the guard saying: "If we lose a couple in a row this season, it will be like the World Trade (Center) is coming down again."

Hours later, AOL Fanhouse published a different version of the quote, citing a transcription error and an editor's note saying, "we deeply regret the error."

NBA BRIEFS

Mavs re-sign Dirk Nowitzki

DALLAS (AP)—Nine-time All-Star Dirk Nowitzki has signed his new contract with the Dallas Mavericks. The Mavericks announced the signing in a statement issued Monday. Team officials released no terms of the deal. However, a person familiar with the negotiations had told The Associated Press when the agreement was reached earlier this month that the deal is for more than \$80 million over four years, with a no-trade clause. At 32, Nowitzki had opted out of the final year of his contract to become an unrestricted free agent for the first time, but he didn't talk seriously with any other teams. The 12-year NBA veteran has averaged 22.9 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.7 assists, one block and 36.7 minutes in 920 career games. In 97 playoff games, Nowitzki averages 25.5 points, 11 rebounds, 2.3 assists, 1.2 steals and 1 block per game.

AP sources: Kings, Bucks close to trade

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Two people with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press on Monday that the Milwaukee Bucks are in trade discussions with the Sacramento Kings to obtain forward Jon Brockman. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks had not been completed. The deal would send forward Darnell Jackson and a second-round pick to Sacramento as part of a sign-and-trade arrangement for Brockman, a power forward who started four games and appeared in 52 overall for the Kings last year as a rookie. He averaged 2.8 points and 4.1 rebounds in limited minutes. The 23-year-old Brockman was a second-round pick by the Kings who impressed the coaches with his rugged play down low. He did not participate in Sacramento's NBA Summer League schedule that ended Sunday.

Titans, Chris Johnson agree to revised deal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Chris Johnson's agent says the running back and the Tennessee Titans have agreed on a revised deal that will ensure he reports with the rest of the team for training camp.

Agent Joel Segal confirmed the deal Monday to The Associated Press.

Segal would not say how much of a raise Johnson is getting, but did say the running will get a pay increase. Johnson will reportedly earn \$2.5 million this season under the revised deal.

It's not the minimum \$30 million in guaranteed money the AP 2009 Offensive Player of the Year had been saying he wanted after becoming just the sixth back to run for at least 2,000 yards.

However, he no longer will be the lowest-paid running back on the Titans roster with a base salary of \$550,000. The raise will also prevent him from missing training camp when the Titans report on July 30 after sitting out the entire offseason in protest.

Profootballtalk.com first reported the deal.

The Titans declined to confirm the deal Monday, and Johnson did not respond to messages left on his cell phone by the AP. The avid tweeter also had posted only one message Monday,

a rare drought for the running back.

Team officials had insisted Johnson was under contract for three more years and that rules limiting pay hikes to 30 percent in the league's labor agreement made it impossible to give Johnson a huge raise. Almost all of the money for a new long-term deal would have been paid up front, which the Titans were not willing to do.

Johnson won the ESPY for breakthrough athlete last week and promised he would be happy even with a small raise for the short-term.

"When they do something, I'll be proud to be there with my teammates," Johnson said on July 14.

Johnson still wants a long-term deal, but for now he can focus reaching his next goal—Eric Dickerson's NFL rushing record of 2,105 set in 1984. Johnson came up just short with his 2,006 yards even as the Titans focused on trying to get him to the 2,000-mark in the final games of the 2009 season.

Johnson already ranks behind only Dickerson (3,318) and Edgerrin James (3,262) for the most yards in the first two years of a career with 3,234. Johnson also will be trying to match Barry Sanders' record of 14 consecutive 100-yard rushing games; he finished the 2009 season with 11 in a row.

Mayweather silent on status of Pacquiao talks



M I A M I (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. allowed a deadline for striking a deal on a superfight with Manny Pacquiao to pass without saying anything. A day later, Mayweather indicated that his stance wouldn’t be changing anytime soon. “I’m not interested in rushing to do anything,” Mayweather told The Associated Press.

Appearing in Miami on Sunday as a coach at a charity basketball game hosted by Dwyane Wade and Alonzo Mourning, Mayweather happily fielded questions about the NBA. But when talk turned to boxing—and Pacquiao in particular—the fighter known as Money simply wouldn’t respond. Mayweather’s camp did not respond to a deadline early Saturday put in place by Pacquiao promoter Top Rank for

exclusive negotiations, which has put what could be the richest fight in boxing history in doubt. Mayweather and Pacquiao are clearly the two biggest stars in the sport but have not signed a deal despite months of negotiations. “I’m not really thinking about boxing right now,” Mayweather said. “I’m just relaxing. I fought about 60 days ago, so I’m just enjoying myself, enjoying life, en-

joying my family and enjoying my vacation.” Mayweather has appeared at the event Mourning founded known as the Summer Groove in past years, plus has grabbed courtside seats at Heat games during previous trips to Miami. But there was a certain irony to his appearance Sunday: Mayweather was a coach on the bench that the Heat occupy, sitting in the seat that Miami coach Erik Spoelstra uses dur-

ing games. Spoelstra is of Filipino descent, and is a huge Pacquiao fan. “I’m supporting all basketball players because I’m a fan of basketball,” Mayweather said. Pacquiao already has agreed to an equitable split of the earnings from the megafight, along with extensive drug testing. The two sides nearly came to terms earlier this year, but the fight didn’t happen

then because Pacquiao was reticent about blood testing close to a fight. Pacquiao ended up routing Joshua Clottey before about 50,000 fans at Cowboys Stadium in March, while Mayweather easily defeated Shane Mosley in May. Although he hasn’t spoken directly to Mayweather, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said he believes the former pound-for-pound champion might be reluctant to fight this year because of the legal woes of Roger Mayweather, his uncle and longtime trainer.

OLD

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\$50 MITA gift certificates, a first aid kit, and seven pairs of sunglasses. *Botin Saba*, captained by Paul Roberto with anglers James Roberto and Paul Roberto Jr., pulled in a 144.850-lb marlin and won first place in the billfish category. The team took home a giant hand-carved wooden trophy, \$1,500 in prize money, three pairs of sunglasses, a Pelican I-Phone case, \$50 gift certificates from Mobil Oil Marianas and MITA Travel, a first aid kit, and one complimentary room at PIC. *San Juan III* won second prize (127.95 lbs) and *Luka & Ben* placed third (118.10 lbs). Coincidentally, *San Juan III*, captained by Antonio Maestro with crewmate Errol Moi-

ses, won the yellowfin category with their 44.20-lb tuna. Along with their trophy they took home \$750, a first aid kit, two pairs of sunglasses, and a Pelican flashlight. *M-2* came in second (38.65 lbs) and *Saint Patrick* took third (33.05 lbs). In the wahoo category, *Joker II*, captained by Antonio “Abbet” Barit with crewmate Mario Barit, won the first place trophy along with \$750, a flashlight, first aid kit, two pairs of sunglasses, a \$150 gift certificate from the Marianas Eye Institute, a night’s stay with breakfast at the Aqua Resort Club, and a \$100 gift certificate from Joeten Enterprises for catching their healthy 31.95-lb wahoo, about 10 pounds heavier than its closest contenders. *Saina* won second place (22.25 lbs) and *Jay Junior* rounded out the third spot (18.25 lbs).

Flame of Love, captained by Jose M. Torres with crewman Lito Aguilar, won first place in the mahi-mahi category with their 19.90-lb catch. Along with their trophy, the duo took home \$750, a \$100 American Express gift card, two pairs of shades, a first aid kit, \$50 gift certificates from Joeten Enterprises and MITA Travel, and a \$25 certificate from Oleai Beach Bar & Grill. *MV Sea Hunter* won second prize (14.90 lbs) and *Keilani-Ko* placed third (11.20 lbs). In a tight contest, *AquaHolics*, captained by Tony Flores and crewmembers Nobert Diaz and Rudy Pangelinan, reeled in a 10.95-lb skipjack to edge out second place *Shekinah I* by a quarter of a pound to win first place in the skipjack category. *Yellow Boat* was also right in the mix with their 9.90-lb third place catch. The first

prizewinners were awarded \$600, a \$30 gift from Kinpachi Restaurant, a first aid kit, three pairs of sunglasses, a flashlight, a \$25 gift certificate from Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, a \$10 gift from Herman’s Modern Bakery, and a \$50 gift from Joeten Enterprises. SFA weight master Raymond Roberto tallied all of the results last Sunday, July 18. During the awards banquet, where participants danced while being serenaded by music, various fishermen donated some of their catch to be served at dinner. Throughout the evening SFA officials thanked their many sponsors including Pacific Trading Co., NTT Docomo Pacific, Yamaha, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacifica Insurance, Continental Airlines, Mobil Oil Marianas, various government agencies, and a host of others.

CAREY

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team completed the 20-km trail in an impressive one hour and 25 minutes. Carey then took a rest and found some dinner with her support team during the night ride section. It rained that night during the MTB stage, which significantly slowed down the riders. Over four hours later, around 11:30pm that night, Carey’s team approached Day 1 finish line in first place. After some soba for dinner, Carey’s team went to bed at 1:30am and awoke soon after at 3am and started the whitewater rafting section. On Day 2, Carey had to go the whole day since she already used up her allotted rest periods. Carey’s team finished the rafting stage in second and then went on to another mountain bike section. They then had to navigate through a challenging trekking section. Carey’s team hit the first checkpoint, but then missed the next three, causing them to miss the cutoff time for the stage. It took over five hours for them to complete the trek course and their team fell from second place to fifth. As a result of missing the cutoff, Carey’s team did not get to participate in the canyoneering

segment, but instead ran three kilometers along the road. “We were a really good team with strong teamwork, even though we just met the day before the race, but we needed to practice how to better read the maps. It took us five hours for that stage, but other teams took only two to three hours,” said Carey about trekking navigation problems. Carey added, “Still, it was a great experience and I really gained confidence for my next race, the Kaike Triathlon. I felt like after this race, even the Ironman I can finish! We learned that as a team, we all have the energy and power, but we have to refine our navigation skills for next year.” Carey said the hardest part of the race was carrying a whitewater raft and the last hiking stage that took five hours. She also had a hard time coming to grips with all of the wild leeches they came into contact with throughout the race. “I really would like to say thanks to my family, all my friends, and the whole Saipan sports community for all of their support. When I hear the cheers, it helps give me more power... and big thank to my husband, Kevin, who always understands and supports me every time. Sometimes I have a bad training day or an injury and he gives me good advice and takes care of me,” she said.

THREE

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six early points to force a deadlock after 10 minutes of play, 17-all. At the start of the second canto, the Runnin’ Rebels started playing lethargic and could not can baskets in streaks. In contrast, Hi-5 got its offense going with Wowie Abuel scoring the team’s first six points in the second period and Kae Bernardo picking up where he left off, drilling the squad’s last eight points. Bernardo had 10 markers in the second quarter alone,

while Abuel made eight, lifting Hi-5 to a 39-28 advantage at halftime. In the third period, Bernardo was still at it, scoring Hi-5’s first five points, while Dave Sablan made a couple more baskets on his daredevil drives to pad the team’s lead to as high as 19 points, 50-31. The Runnin’ Rebels managed to can three triples in the third period and trimmed the lead to a decent number, 46-56, entering the final canto. However, the Runnin’ Rebels committed several defensive lapses at the start of the fourth period, allowing William Opone three easy baskets and

giving Hi-5 a chance to pull away anew. Hi-5 did a great job protecting its double-digit lead midway in the fourth quarter, as the Runnin’ Rebels continued to play sluggish, offensively. Bernardo top-scored for Hi-5 with 24 points, while Sablan and Abuel added 17 and 14, respectively. Teregeyo led the Runnin’ Rebels with 14 points, but was held to one field goal apiece in the first, second, and third quarter. Leroy Rangamar chipped in 13, while Ivan De Vero contributed 12. In the first match, Bud Light Lime Ol’Aces ended their three-

game winning skid without a sweat after defeating Michelob Ultra Sixers via forfeiture. The Sixers had only three players available for the game, giving the Ol’Aces the outright victory, their third in six games. The Sixers absorbed their fifth loss in six matches. **Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 76** – Bernardo 24, Sablan 17, Abuel 14, Opone 6, Lerio 5, Santos 4, Capalad 2. **Runnin’ Rebels 64** – Teregeyo 14, Rangamar 13, De Vero 12, Iguel 7, Norita 7, Kenty 4, Olaitiman 4, Tomokane 3. **Scoring by quarters:** 17-17, 39-28, 56-46, 76-64.

STRONG

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game in the opening day of the tournament. The duo of Saturno and Lampera played their second match of the day against the tandem of Loyda Ito and Elma Labuson and the first pair also needed only two sets to win the game. The first set was a bit tough for Saturno and Lampera as they struggled for extra points to pull off a 30-28 victory. A 21-17 win in the second set gave Saturno and Lampera a 2-0 record and the early lead in the women’s doubles B division. Participants in each division will play in a single round-robin elimination with only

the Top 4 teams advancing o the playoffs. In the playoffs, the undefeated team will get a twice-to-beat advantage. In other women’s doubles B division results, the teams of Anna Rose Omori and Michelle Caleon and Marlene Peraja and Lanie Bartolome prevailed over separate foes. Omori and Caleon topped Malou Malasarte and Anna Alvarez in straight sets, 21-19, 21-19, while Peraja and Bartolome also swept Marilyn Montano and Jaja Samonte, 21-12, 21-14. In the women’s doubles C, the youthful pair of Angie Ito and Jennine Savellano survived Peraja and Annette Quiambao in three sets. Ito and Savellano took the opening set, 21-16, but failed to close out the game

early, as Peraja and Quiambao bounced back in the second set with a 21-18 triumph. In the deciding third set, Ito and Savellano needed extra points to finally wrap up the game, 24-22. The other women’s doubles C game saw Choi Hannah and Lee So Young beating Loyda Ito and Kim Boh Ranah in straight sets, 21-11, 23-21. In the lone women’s doubles C division, Merlie Tolentino and Elna Curate whipped Quiambao and Heo In Sook, 21-12, 21-18. Besides the women’s doubles games, five men’s division matches were also played during the opening of the tournament. In the lone men’s doubles A match, Rey Bulaon and Hapi Gabriel swept Jerry Hibi and Robert Reyes, 21-14, 21-13.

In the men’s doubles AB, Edwin Montoya teamed up with Edwin Maratas and they pulled off a three-set win over Macoi Aguda and Ezekiel Macario, 21-18, 14-21, 21-12. The men’s doubles B game between the tandems of Victor Regis and Mario Diola and Noli Santos and Aries Cordero was also decided in three sets with the first pair prevailing, 20-22, 21-17, 21-11. Cordero and Santos re-deemed themselves in their second game of the day after beating Roger Vales and Jojo Savellano, 21-16, 21-15. In the lone men’s doubles C game, Manatsu Omori and Chris Hilario crushed Puy Macario and Kanata Omori, 21-16, 21-12.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
MLB STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Pittsburgh 32 60 .348 19 1/2				
East Division					West Division				
New York	W	L	Pct	GB	San Diego	54	37	.593	—
Tampa Bay	58	33	.637	—	San Francisco	51	42	.548	4
Boston	56	36	.609	2 1/2	Colorado	50	42	.543	4 1/2
Toronto	53	40	.570	6	Los Angeles	49	44	.527	6
Baltimore	47	46	.505	12	Arizona	35	58	.376	20
	29	63	.315	29 1/2	Yesterday's Games				
Central Division					Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 1				
Chicago	51	41	.554	—	St. Louis 8, Philadelphia 4				
Detroit	48	43	.527	2 1/2	Florida 9, Colorado 8				
Minnesota	49	44	.527	2 1/2	Cincinnati 7, Washington 2				
Kansas City	40	52	.435	11	Houston 11, Chicago Cubs 5				
Cleveland	39	54	.419	12 1/2	Arizona 13, N.Y. Mets 2				
West Division					San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 2				
Texas	54	39	.581	—	Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 1				
Los Angeles	50	45	.526	5	Texas 8, Detroit 6, 14 innings				
Oakland	46	47	.495	8	Cleveland 10, Minnesota 4				
Seattle	36	57	.387	18	Kansas City 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings				
NATIONAL LEAGUE					Boston 2, Oakland 1				
East Division					Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 1				
Atlanta	54	38	.587	—	BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
New York	49	44	.527	5 1/2	LOCAL SCORES				
Philadelphia	48	44	.522	6	BUDWEISER CAGE STANDINGS				
Florida	45	47	.489	9	CNMI Nationals 6 0				
Washington	40	53	.430	14 1/2	Hoegaarden IT&E 6 1				
Central Division					Bacardi Hi-5 5 2				
St. Louis	52	41	.559	—	Becks Sixsevenoh 5 3				
Cincinnati	52	42	.553	1/2	Ol'Aces 3 3				
Milwaukee	43	51	.457	9 1/2	Runnin' Rebels 1 4				
Chicago	42	52	.447	10 1/2	Budweiser Saints 1 4				
Houston	38	55	.409	14	Michelob Sixers 1 5				
					Bud Ice Rollers 0 7				

Century Insurance secures championship

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Century Insurance dominated the 29th PBA-CBC Thursday Night League, sweeping the four team awards and besting eight other squads for the overall championship.

Century Insurance completed the 18-week league with a 56.5-15.5 win-loss record for a 78.5 winning percentage. The eventual champion collected 53,273 pinfalls by the end of the league early this month for an average of 898 per game.

The members of the champion squad were Ross Zapanta and his sons—Raymond, Raphael, and Ruselle—Simon Manacop, and Raul Dumapit.

Besides the overall championship, Century Insurance also won four team awards—scratch game (1,073), scratch series (2,932), handicap game (1,137), and handicap series (3,129). In all four categories, Century beat Dial Recharge, which recorded 976 in scratch game; 2,738 in scratch series; 1,118 in handicap game; and 3,082 in handicap series.

Dial Recharge finished second in the overall standings with its 55-17 record, 76.4 winning percentage, 842 average, and total of 52,084 pinfalls. Toshiba rounded out the Top 3 after completing the league with a 42.5-29.5 record, 791 average, and 51,337 pinfalls.

Dial Recharge had Raymond



Members of Century Insurance pose with their trophy during the awards ceremony for the 29th PBA-CBC Thursday Night League last week at the Capital Bowling Center.

Angeles, Rolly Dacumos, Fer-dee Generoso, Allan Hernandez, Richard Leong, Eric Rabang, and Alex Uy as members. Toshiba members were Ruben Avendano, Orly Ebuena, Ron Cal, Paul Bea, Atoy Banting, Malou Cabigao, Roger Vales, Rey Madrilijos, and Joe Digno.

Other teams that joined the annual league were The Company VI (41-31), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (36-36), Philippine Consulate General (35-37), I-Connect (32-40), Pacific Wellness Center (28-44), and Korean Bowling Association (24-48).

In the individual awards, Ruselle Zapanta swept the men's division, topping the scratch game (280); scratch series (680); handicap game (293), and handicap series (716). Angeles finished second in the scratch game (270) and handicap game (286), Raymond Zapanta was runner-up in the scratch series (657), and Joe Sugue placed second in the handicap series (711).

In the women's division, Gloria Omechelang and Yho Villavicencio split the four awards. Omechelang won the

scratch game (225) and handicap game (265) against Lala Taitano (222/264). Villavicencio foiled Omechelang's bid for a sweep when the former ruled the scratch series (535) and handicap series (661).

In the individual high averages, Manacop was on top with his 194.15, followed by Raymond Zapanta (190.55) and his older brother, Ruselle (187.20). Omechelang held the highest average in the women's division with her 155.44, followed by Cal and Villavicencio, who recorded 155.03 and 149.77, respectively.

Summer Blast 3-on-3 caging adds open division contest



The Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's Summer Blast 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will now add an open division contest for next weekend's caging.

"After several consultation with many interested ineligible players for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, the board has agreed to have a 3-on-3 open division," MBFNMI president Ray Lizama said.

Entrance fee for each division is lowered to \$150 from \$175. Each member of the team will receive Pacific Islands Club water park passes and free uniforms and are entitled to win raffle prizes. Participating squads are allowed to have a maximum of five players in their roster.

The 3-on-3 tournament, which is being supported by PIC and Pacific Trading, Co., will be held on July 31 at the PIC hard court in San Antonio.

Deadline to register for the 3-on-3 caging is scheduled for July 24. For more information, contact Joe Pangelinan at 234-6925, Arnold Erediano at 234-9797 or 888-1610, or e-mail MBFNMI at mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com.



Mobil's Jun Estolas pulls up for a shot against two defenders during a 3-on-3 tournament last month at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe. Estolas and other open division players are invited to join Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI's Summer Blast 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on July 31 at the Pacific Islands Club court.

CPR-AED training at Red Cross office

Meanwhile, the MBFNMI has changed the venue of its CPR-

AED from the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe to the American Red Cross main office along airport road.

Rain cancels UBA matches



Rain showers has put a halt to 2010 UBA Youth League games scheduled last Friday and Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

UBA said Friday matches between the Celtics and the Sixers followed by Hi-5 versus Rollers B will be rescheduled after the regular schedule ends.

Last Monday night's lone match between Kagman 1-2-3 and Rollers A, meanwhile, will be pushed back until all previous makeup games are completed.

Last Monday, July 19, was supposed to mark the end of the UBA regular season schedule.

Normally, makeup dates were set for Tuesdays and Thursdays, but with the recent start of United Filipino Organization's Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League,

UBA was forced to settle with the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule.

Weather permitting, the under-18 makeup games from Wednesday, July 14, will continue starting at 6pm tonight at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Kagman 1-2-3 is set to challenge Hi-5 followed by the Sonics going up against the Sparks. Then at the same time and place on Friday, July 23, the Celtics will face the Sixers followed by the Hi-5-Rollers B game.

Then the last game of the season will feature the two current top seeds of the league going toe-to-toe. Kagman 1-2-3 and Rollers A are both undefeated as of right now and are expected to finish out the UBA regular season with a bang.

After the season wraps up, other details about the playoff format will be announced at a later date. *(Walter Sutherland)*



Kagman 1-2-3's match against Rollers A in the 2010 UBA Youth League last Monday was canceled due to rain that rendered the Garapan Basketball Court unplayable.

Pacific Games fifth qualifier at Laolao east



The fifth qualifying tournament for the golf competition in the 2011 Pacific Games will be held this Saturday on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee time is at 12pm.

The tournament is open not only to those aiming to earn slots on the CNMI Team, but to golfers who also want to prepare for future tournaments, like next month's 2010 Tournament of Championships.

Golfers aspiring to represent the CNMI Team in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia but missed one of the first four qualifiers, must join this weekend's trial, as Pacific Games hopefuls are allowed to miss only one trial and make it up later.

So far, 17 players are competing for the five slots on the team. They are with their average scores in parenthesis Jess

Wabol (76.5), Jeff Taylor (77), Edward Manibusan (77.5), Nick Sablan (78.3), Tars Olopai (79.5), Adam Hardwicke (80), Joji Taguchi (80), Tony Satur (80.5), Steve Jang (83.25), Jesse Seman (85.50), Steve Balakrishna (84.750), Ralph Yumul (85), Jung Eun Teack (88), Jordan Kosam (88), Carl Hocog (91), Joe Saures (91.5), and Joc Hocog (100).

This weekend's fifth qualifier and the two remaining trials will all be played from the blue tee. The sixth qualifier will take place at the Kingfisher Golf Link, while the optional seventh trial will be played on the west course of Laolao Bay. Dates of the last two trials will be determined later. Golfers can use the last trial to make up for the qualifier they missed or to drop their lowest score.

For more information, contact Wabol at 288-1129, Manibusan at 235-6520, Taylor at 483-2513, or Kosam at 483-4506. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*



28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Old rivals unite to win grand prize

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Winners, led by the crew of grand prize champion *Shamrock Warrior*, were feted during the awards ceremony of the 26th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament held Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside.

Shamrock Warrior captain John Guerrero and crewmembers John Coleman, Tony Scragg, and Mark Staffler were presented with the grand prize trophy and \$2,000 for reeling in the heaviest marlin of the two-day derby held in the waters of the CNMI.

In past years, Scragg and Coleman used to compete against Guerrero and Staffler, but this time around, the four-some decided to join forces.

"After years of competing against each other, we thought we would give it a shot to come together as a team and look what happened," said Scragg after receiving the grand prize package with his team during the awards presentation finale.

For reeling in their 248-lb marlin, *Shamrock Warrior* had their names engraved on the renowned 6-foot tall trophy and were also issued a smaller replica version for them to fight over.

Aside from the handsome trophy and \$2,000 in prize money, Guerrero, Staffler, Scragg, and



Crewmembers of *Shamrock Warrior* are presented with the grand prize at Monday night's awards banquet for the 26th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Coleman also won a roundtrip ticket from Continental Airlines to anywhere in Micronesia, a Mobil Oil Marianas gift certificate, a Red Cross first aid kit, and lunch packages for two at the Pacific Island Club's Magellan Restaurant.



They also won \$1,300 in cash for winning the optional side bet. *Shamrock Warrior* was one of 13 boats out of the 26 total competitors that each paid the extra \$100 for the side bet. *Cabo Express*, captained

by John Hofschneider with crewmembers Allen Deleon, Patrick Diaz, Edward Diaz, Conrad Hofschneider, and Luis Manibusan won the total weight category.

In addition to the Mobil Cup, they won \$2,000, a couple of

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Carey, teammates finish fifth in Japan race

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's Mieko Carey and the rest of her teammates in Team Salomon finished fifth in the mixed division of the 2010 Salomon X-Adventure Race held last July 3 and 4 in Minikami, Japan.

Carey and her teammates crossed the finish line of the two-day, 150-kilometer adventure race in just under 32 hours.

"I was happy to join my sponsor's race (Salomon). It was my second time to compete in Japan. I tried the XTERRA there once and I'm interested in participating in more races over there in the future," she said.

In the mixed division, the female team member was allowed to sit out for only two sections, so Carey's team plotted on which sections for her to get some rest.

They decided that she would sit out in the first section and



Mieko Carey and Tyce Mister pose for a photo at the Salomon X-Adventure 2010 in Minikami, Japan during the Fourth of July weekend.

during the nighttime mountain biking segment on Day 1 of the race.

Carey's teammates were all professional cyclists, so they opted to try and jump ahead early before bringing her in during

the uphill trek. Less than an hour into the race, her team finished the first section in first place.

By rule, each section must be completed within a predetermined cutoff time in addition to a mandatory 15-minute

rest after completing each section.

After her team gained an early lead, Carey jumped in the mix and started the grueling uphill trek stage.

"The view was awesome! We were on top of a mountain and we could see clouds and a lot of other mountains," said Carey of the scenic Minkami terrain.

After the trek, Carey's team had to endure a challenging uphill mountain bike section where they had to carry their bikes up steep hills.

After the mountain bike walk-ride, Carey's team hit the water in their kayaks. They breezed through the kayaking stage, but still missed the cutoff time because they took too long in the uphill MTB section.

Next came the team biathlon, or leapfrog, stage where two members run, while the other two ride bikes. Carey's

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Three in a row for Mojito Hi-5

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 continued its uphill climb to the team standings in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League, following a 76-64 win over O'Doul's Runnin' Rebels last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-5, which dropped two of its first three games, now has a 5-2 record to move up from fifth to third place in the nine-team league. The Eric Atalig-coached squad notched its third win in a row.

The Runnin' Rebels dropped to a 1-4 record, as they could not get their offensive game going and were dragging their feet to catch up against Hi-5's fastbreak plays.

The only time the Runnin' Rebels kept pace with Hi-5 was in the first quarter when Syl Teregeyo knocked down

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bacardi Mojito Hi-5's Wowie Abuel goes for a layup and is fouled by the Runnin' Rebels' Ivan De Vero during their game in the Budweiser caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Strong start for Saturno, Lampera

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cheng Saturno and Lucelle Lampera got off to a rousing start in the Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition 2010 when they swept their first two games in the

month-long tournament at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Saturno and Lampera debuted with a 21-16, 21-17 win over Cristy Villaflor and Emily Vargas in the women's doubles B division last Saturday and then had another

See STRONG on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Cheng Saturno returns to Loyda Ito and Elma Labuson while doubles partner Lucelle Lampera looks on during their game in the women's doubles B division of the Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition 2010 last Saturday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.